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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1989/JAMADIUL AWWAL 11, 1410 AH

22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Massacre in Montreal

Loner kills 14 college girls in suicidal rampage



Lepine: butcher

MONTREAL, Dec 8, (Agencies): A man who killed 14 women at the University of Montreal had a deep fear of being rejected by women and once hoped to attend the engineering school where he carried out his suicidal rampage, police say.

The shooting spree by Marc Lepine, described as a bright but jobless loner who had an apparent hatred for women in general and feminists in particular, led to new calls to tighten Canada's weapons laws.

Armed with a semi-automatic rifle, the 25-year-old Lepine walked through the engineering school on Wednesday afternoon, singling out women and shooting them. He killed 14 women and wounded 13 other people — nine women and four men — before killing himself.

Police found a three-page suicide note that blamed feminists for his troubles. They pieced together a troubling profile of a man whose father ran out on the family when he was a boy, whose life was a succession of failures.

The modern university that rests on a hill overlooking the city was stunned after the worst mass slaying in Canadian history. About 2,000 mourners held a wrenching candlelight vigil last evening in Montreal, and people held memorials for the dead in Ottawa, Toronto and Edmonton, Alberta.

The school was closed yesterday in mourning. Final exams set for yesterday.

(Continued on Page 2)

NEWSWATCH

Borders accepted

STRASBOURG, France, Dec 8, (Reuters): West Chancellor Helmut Kohl said for the first time today that he accepted the Oder-Neisse line marking Poland's post-war Western border. EEC Commission sources said.

It was the first time that Kohl had publicly committed himself on the sensitive issue despite strong pressure to do so during his visit to Poland in November.

The sources said he made the commitment to other EEC leaders during a lunch at their summit meeting in Strasbourg.

Party purge

SOFIA, Dec 8, (Reuters): Bulgaria's new communist leaders, faced mounting popular demand for reform, carried out their second purge of top party posts in four weeks.

The official BTA news agency said a meeting of the party's Central Committee, unexpectedly brought forward by three days, "relieved" six members of the policy-making politburo and 27 Central Committee members — including disgraced former leader Todor Zhivkov.

Many Bulgarians regarded the ousted members as hardline allies of Zhivkov.

Immigration law

TOKYO, Dec 8, (AP): Japan's parliament passed a new immigration law that provides penalties for unskilled illegal workers and their employers, while welcoming some categories of skilled foreign labour.

The new law provides up to three years in prison and a fine of up to 2 million yen (\$13,900) for employers or brokers of illegal aliens, a Justice Ministry official said.

However, the revision, the first in eight years, also will allow more skilled foreigners, such as lawyers and teachers, to enter the country and work, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Prisoners killed

WARSAW, Dec 8, (Reuters): Three prisoners were killed on when riots broke out in five Polish jails after parliament excluded habitual offenders from an amnesty.

Justice Ministry spokesman Andrzej Cubala said the three died after prison guards used stun grenades and tear gas against at least 1,000 convicts who took over most of the prison in the Koszalin region, northwest Poland.

10,000 detained

BEIJING, Dec 8, (AP): Beijing city authorities have reprimanded nearly 11,000 people since late October in an anti-violence campaign against the "six evils," an official newspaper said.

Ships feared lost

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Dec 8, (UPI): Authorities feared two cargo vessels carrying a total of 39 crew members sank after sending distress signals during a heavy storm in the gulf of St. Lawrence.

Weather

NORMAL weather with moderate south-easterly wind.
State of sea: Moderate to rough.
High water: 7:30 am, 8:00 pm.
Low water: 11:00 am, 11:30 pm.
Sunrise: 6:27 am.
Sunset: 4:52 pm.
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 17°C (63°F)
Abu Dhabi: 14°C (57°F)
Falkland: 15°C (59°F)
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 7°C (45°F)
Abu Dhabi: 6°C (43°F)
Falkland: 8°C (46°F)
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 16°C (61°F)
Abu Dhabi: 15°C (59°F)
Falkland: 15°C (59°F)
Minimum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 30 per cent
Abu Dhabi: 25 per cent
Falkland: 85 per cent

Panel formed on Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir in Singh search for peace

Kidnap in Kashmir

Militants abduct Home Minister's daughter

SRINAGAR, Dec 8, (Reuters): Kashmiri militants kidnapped the daughter of India's new Muslim Home Minister today, police sources said.

Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's daughter Rubia, a doctor, was seized as she returned home from work in a women's hospital on the outskirts of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

Sayeed became India's first Muslim home minister on Tuesday after the opposition National Front alliance came to power.

Hours before his daughter was kidnapped he was given special responsibility for

finding ways to end extremist revolts in the country two major trouble spots — Punjab and Kashmir.

Singh today constituted a cabinet-level committee to review ways of addressing secessionist movements in the northern states of Punjab and Kashmir. A spokesman for the prime minister also said cabinet panels had been formed to oversee initiatives to stabilize rising prices, increase local autonomy, implement electoral reforms to eliminate abuse, and increase citizens' access to government information.

All of the issues have been listed as "priorities" by Singh. The spokesman said the committee on Punjab and Kashmir would consider proposals for settling political unrest in the two states that are to be submitted during a conference called for next week by Singh of all India's political parties.

Aquino fingers 'Opposition'



Rebel soldiers give 'V' for victory and time-out signs as they walk back to their army barracks in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)



Aquino waves to her supporters. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Cory' is back

She's lost control of herself — Laurel

MANILA, Dec 8, (Agencies): President Corason Aquino vowed never to resign, despite opposition from mutinous soldiers, and called on the nation today to unite against those "who want to destroy our democracy."

Meanwhile, the last holdouts of the sixth and most serious attempt to topple Aquino's government refused to surrender an air base they were holding.

Aquino bitterly criticised Vice-President Salvador Laurel, who broke with the President to lead the opposition. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and others who have called for her resignation.

She vowed never to surrender the presidency to Laurel. She promised to investigate whether Enrile, who was fired as defence

minister in November 1986 after a failed coup attempt by his followers, was involved in the latest violent attempt launched by military mutineers on Dec 1.

Aquino addressed a rally at the site where hundreds of thousands of Filipinos filled the streets to support her 1986 "people power" revolution that toppled the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

"He keeps on urging me to

resign," Aquino said of Laurel. "What does he think I am? stupid?"

The crowd cheered wildly and chanted "Cory, Cory, Cory." "I will never give up this position to him," she said, and suggested that Laurel resign instead.

After the President's address, Laurel said in a statement: "She has not only lost control of the nation, she has lost control of herself."

He said Aquino "is herself the principal cause of all six coups that have occurred during her term due to her incompetent, weak and corrupt leadership."

In linking Enrile, to the coup, she said the lone opposition senator did not even condemn the insurgency. Of Cojuangco.

(Continued on Page 13)

In depth coverage

— Page 13 —

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(Continued on Page 13)

Exclusive

Laws to be simplified

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

THE National Front's election manifesto called for freeing the country from indiscriminate and highly-expensive technologies, the humiliating burden of fast-establishing foreign debt and the subject dependence on multinational corporations.

Businessmen and economists expect the new government to continue Rajiv Gandhi's widely-lauded liberalisation policy in order to get economic reform back into gear.

Madhu Dandavate, India's new finance minister has said government would like to simplify the laws and taxation measures so that all impediments in the part of the speedy development process are removed.

(Details Page 15)

thought to be in her early 20s, was returning home in a van with other colleagues when gunmen

(Continued on Page 12)



V.P. Singh (right) receives a garland from the Golden Temple's secretary Manjit Singh Calcutta in Amritsar. (Reuters wirephoto)

Concern over Iraq's rocket

US confirms launch

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (Agencies): The United States said today it had confirmed that Iraq had launched a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit.

"The State Department understands that the Defence Intelligence Agency can confirm the launch of an Iraqi rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit," State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

"At this point, we don't have any further details," he added.

Boucher said he did not know if the US government planned to raise the issue of this specific launch with Iraq. But he reiterated US concern about the spread of ballistic missile technology and its destabilising effect in the Middle East.

Iraq yesterday announced it had launched a 48-tonne three-stage rocket into space two days earlier and political analysts predicted the event would send tremors throughout the region, especially in Israel, Iran and Syria.

Despite the Iraqi announcements, some experts were sceptical. "In the past, when Iraqis have made claims like this, they usually have been exaggerated, but with some kernel of truth," one US official said.

A Pentagon spokesman, Air Force Lt. Col. Rick Ober said: "New data that came in shows the Iraqis launched a rocket."

Obern declined to identify how the United States confirmed the rocket launch, but it was believed US spy satellites picked up the flash of the rocket as it roared into space.

The North American aerospace

defence command at Peterson Air Force base in Colorado tracked an object for "five or six revolutions," a defence official said. But it was not immediately clear whether the object was a separate payload or the last stage of the rocket itself.

The launch, which could give Iraq the capability for a long-range nuclear warhead delivery system, came nine months after Saudi Arabia denied it was funding an Iraqi nuclear weapons project.

The Saudis said at the time their money would only be used to rebuild a 1981 Israeli air strike. The funding was conditional on Iraq promising the facility was for peaceful purposes only.

In the Iraqi announcement, broadcast over state-run radio, Military Industries Minister Hussein Kamel said: "We achieved a complicated scientific leap on Tuesday when we successfully tested the launching of the three-stage rocket to outer space from the Al Anbar base for outer space research."

The Al Anbar base is believed to be in northern Iraq. Kamel said the rocket was 25 yards (23 m) long and weighed 48 tons, but gave no further details. The message said the rocket had been made in Iraq.

The rocket appears similar in size to the Scout-D launched by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration to place mainly scientific payloads in low-earth orbit. The four-stage, solid-fuel Scout-D stands 75.5 feet (23 m) tall, is 3.8 feet (1.2 m) wide and weighs 47,000 pounds (21,000 kg) at launch.

A million confined on intifada anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 8, (AP): The army ordered at least a million Palestinians confined to their homes today on the second anniversary of their uprising, while government leaders approved sending Israel's foreign minister to US-sponsored peace talks.

Beefed-up army forces were reported along the borders with Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt to block infiltration attempts by Palestinian commandos in support of the intifada in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip.

Scattered violence erupted in the West Bank and soldiers immediately clamped curfews on six refugee camps and three villages that are home to more than 40,000 Palestinians, an army spokesman said.

The 750,000 people of Gaza Strip were kept under curfew for a second day and the 120,000 population of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, were ordered to remain at home for an eighth day, along with refugees in the seven camps near the city.

In the West Bank, the trouble spots stretched



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat salutes the Palestinian national anthem at an intifada ceremony in Tunis. (Reuters wirephoto)

from Tulkaram in the north of Tekomia, a village near the southern city of Hebron, near Jerusalem, the central market in Ramallah was ordered shut, and journalists were barred from neighbouring Al

Birch.

In the Golan Heights, annexed from Syria after being captured with the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war, members of the minority Druze sect raised Syrian flags in support of the Palestinian uprising, witnesses said.

In Hebron, a slogan freshly painted in black declared: "The intifada continues until victory. We die standing and not kneeling." It was signed by the PLO-backed unified national leadership of the uprising.

Jewish settlers entered a war of symbols with Palestinians by driving throughout the West Bank hanging blue-and-white Israeli flags from utility poles and scrawling slogans on Arab-owned homes to assert their right to the disputed land.

In Jerusalem, Mayor Teddy Kollek opened Israel radio's 8 am news by declaring: "Jerusalem is an integral and eternal part of the state of Israel and no intifada or anything else will change that fact."

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin meanwhile, said

in an interview in the daily Yediot Ahronot that he could not predict when the Palestinian uprising would end but was certain it would not bring gains for residents of the territories.

"I can only say that after two years that it has run wild, those who are arranging and initiating it have not obtained anything and, if they continue, they will also obtain nothing," he said.

The intifada, which began on Dec 8, 1987, has been largely credited with forcing PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to recognise Israel, which led in turn to an American dialogue with the PLO and Israel's offer for elections in the occupied lands.

The revolt also has cost hundreds of lives, thousands of injuries and jailings, and millions of dollars in lost income for both Palestinians and Israelis.

During the uprising, 626 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, and 155 others have been slain by fellow Arabs as alleged collaborators. Forty-three Israelis also have been killed.

Law awaits approval

THE new telecommunications law that is awaiting approval includes punishments of up to six months imprisonment and fines as high as \$2,000 for persons convicted of misusing the wireless devices. Penalties have been increased to end the misuse of wireless sets, reliable sources said.

The intended new law of telecommunications is to be transferred from the Fatwa & Legislation Administration to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Sources further pointed out that the Ministry of Communications intends to combine the wireless functions used by the call taxis and contracting companies as well as other establishments into one frequency to have a collective communications system.

Gunman slays 14 women

(Continued from Page 1)

were postponed four days. Police spent more than a day trying to confirm the identity of the killer, who signed his handwritten suicide note only as "Marc."

Police spokesman Andre Tes-

sier told a news conference last night that Lepine had trouble developing relationships with women and broke off all communication at the first sign of rejection.

If things weren't going well with a woman "he would just

stop the relationship right there and never come back to the person he was talking with," said Jacques Duchesneau, a police investigator.

"He didn't have any girlfriends," the detective said. "I think he blamed women in

general, saying that if his life was ruined it was mainly because of women," Duchesneau said.

Duchesneau said that Lepine's letter included a list of 15 Quebec women, some of them prominent, but the significance was not clear.

Anti-social

"He only gave a list of names, period," the detective said. "We're trying to figure why those names were chosen."

Duchesneau, who said the information about Lepine came from numerous sources, said Lepine was fascinated by war movies. His suicide note said he tried to join the armed forces but was rejected "because he was anti-social."

Duchesneau described Lepine as intelligent, but added he had suffered a number of academic setbacks and had been fired from a job in a Montreal-area hospital.

Lepine had taken courses with the aim of entering the engineering school of the University of Montreal, but there was no indication he applied there, Tes-

sier said. Police said that according to the suicide letter, Lepine said he was going to commit the massacre because "feminists have always ruined my life."

The letter also made a reference to another mass murderer. Cpl Denis Lortie, jailed for life for the killing of three people and wounding of 13 in the Quebec legislature in 1984.

According to Duchesneau, Lepine's letter said Lortie has made a political statement and that Lepine believed "he was only doing what Mr Lortie did."

The officials said the man's name at birth was Gamil Gharbi but he took his mother's surname and the name Marc in 1982. His Algerian father, who now lives abroad, had left the family when Lepine was seven years old.

Police said Lepine's mother and sister still live in Montreal, and they said he had lived with a male friend.

Lepine bought the .223-caliber Sturm Ruger rifle in a hunting store on Nov 21, the police spokes-

men said. In Ottawa, Justice Minister Doug Lewis said he would move to ban the import of military assault rifles, such as Uzi sub-machine-guns and AK-47s, but not the semi-automatic hunting rifle used by the gunman.

Banned

"Automatic weapons are banned in Canada but semi-automatics are available with the proper permit."

Police said the gunman first shot a woman in a second-floor corridor, then entered a room on that floor where a class with about 50 male and 10 female students was in session.

Witnesses said he told the class to separate by sex and sent the men into the corridor before opening fire on the women, killing six. Police said he then went to the first floor, killed three women in a cafeteria, then entered a third-floor classroom where he killed four women and then himself.

"It was just like Rambo. He had at least two ammunition belts across his chest," said engineering student Robert Leclerc, who was in the classroom.

Leclerc, 23, said about 15 women remained in the classroom while the men stood in the corridor outside.

"He told them, 'you're women, you're going to be engineers. You're all a bunch of feminists. I hate feminists,'" Leclerc said. "My friend Nathalie said, 'No, it's not true. We're not feminists.' He fired into the group."

"He came in quietly," said student Eric Chavari. "And he told us to stop what we were doing. Everyone thought it was a joke."

"He was smiling at us. He was very calm," the student recalled. "Then he fired a shot, right by my ear."

A woman in an administration office was killed on the same floor.

As word spread of the rampage, distraught, tearful parents came to the university to check on their children. The university is the largest in French-speaking Quebec, with about 50,000 students.

Pierre Leclair, the Montreal police's head of public relations, arrived and found his daughter, Maryse, dead on a floor, according to university spokesman Richard Doin.

A temporary morgue was set up inside the building, and the school set up a hotline to help provide information. All next of kin had been notified by late Wednesday night.

"All I know is that a crazy guy came in here and began shooting at anything that moved," said Dominique Berube, 22, one of scores of students who ran from the building.



A female gunshot victim is rushed to an ambulance. (Reuter wirephoto)



A distraught woman comforts a grieving companion in Montreal.



A wounded student is tended to after the shooting. (Reuter wirephoto)

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First living-donor liver transplant

The US' first living liver-transplant donor leaves the hospital yesterday, 10 days after giving part of her liver to her daughter, 21-month-old Alyssa Smith, as doctors prepared to try the same operation on another youngster. Alyssa continues to recover at

the University of Chicago Hospitals, said spokeswoman Mary Fetsch. "She thanked the nurses for all their help," Ms Fetsch said. Alyssa, was "doing really well" and showing no signs of rejecting the partial organ received from her mother. (Reuter wirephoto)

Daughter's death sought Right to die

WASHINGTON, Dec 8. (AP) The Supreme Court has been urged to permit the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from a woman described as "an unconscious shell." But a lawyer said the woman's parents have no constitutional right to order such action.

William Colby, a lawyer representing the parent of Nancy Cruzan of Missouri, said if the permanently unconscious woman "was lucid for a moment and could come before this court," she would ask that a tube in her stomach providing food and water be removed.

But Assistant Attorney General Robert Presson of Missouri said the parents have no constitutional right to precipitate their daughter's death.

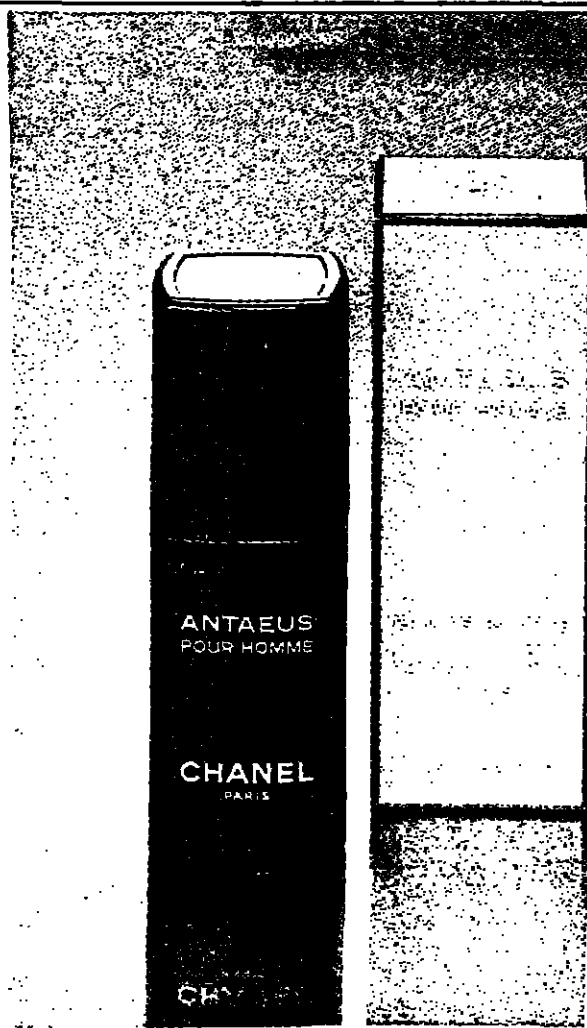
"In this extraordinary situation, the decision should be made by a judicial body," Presson said, referring to a state court ruling that the feeding tubes must be retained.

Solicitor-General Kenneth Starr, the top courtroom lawyer for the administration of President George Bush, supported Presson.

Starr urged the court to give states "wide latitude that reflects reasonably the wishes" of their citizens "in this highly sensitive and deeply vexing situation."

There is no constitutional right to choose to die in such cases that overrides a state's determination to require continued food and water for unconscious patients, Starr said.

In his presentation to the justice, Colby said of Cruzan, "she is an unconscious shell in a roomful of strangers for the rest of her life."



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Crucial brain gene found

NEW YORK, Dec 8. (AP) Researchers have found the first gene of a type crucial for brain function, an advance that could lead to improved treatment for strokes and better understanding of how the brain learns and remembers, scientists say.

The gene is one of several that tell brain cells how to make a protein called a glutamate receptor. The receptor sits on the surface of brain cells, and when it is exposed to a substance called glutamate, it makes the cell more prone to fire off messages to neighbouring brain cells.

That process is a fundamental regulator of brain cell communication.

The new discovery can be used to find genes for the other kinds of glutamate receptor, said study co-author Stephen Heinemann. Finding the gene is a first step towards studying a receptor's structure and behaviour.

Eventually, glutamate receptor studies may lead to development of drugs that limit brain damage from strokes, head injury or repeated seizures, and to new understanding about learning and memory, the scientists said.

Heinemann and colleagues at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego report in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature that they isolated key portions of a rat glutamate receptor gene.

The same issue carries reports of similar findings in frogs and chicks by scientists at the Salk Institute, the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

Charles Stevens of Yale Medical School wrote an editorial accompanying the reports.

In the telephone interview, Heinemann said his group went on to isolate the entire gene. Finding the human counterparts of rat glutamate receptor genes for further research should be relatively easy, he said.

He said he hopes the work will lead to finding the gene for another type of glutamate receptor, called the NMDA receptor because it binds to a man-made chemical called n-methyl-D-aspartate.

The NMDA receptor plays a role in a phenomenon called excitotoxicity, in which brain cells are fatally overstimulated after a stroke, repeated epileptic seizures or a severe blow to the head, Stevens said.

By analysing and experimenting with the NMDA receptor, researchers may be able to develop drugs that block the process and so limit brain damage, he said.

Such studies might one day lead to treatments for people with learning or memory disorders, Heinemann speculated.

Each member of the 2,400 first-night London audience was given a card offering six different smells, released by the scratch of a coin. The chorus signalled which numbered square to scratch for each scene.

Smells included orange blossom and an exotic perfume for the finale of the Russian composer's fairytale work.

LONDON, Dec 8. (AP) The English National Opera Company put smells to music on the opening night of a new production of Sergei Prokofiev's "The Love Of Three Oranges."

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NEW YORK: A Roman Catholic woman claimed a narrow victory Wednesday in a special California state senate election that attracted national attention after she was denied communion because of her abortion-rights ads.

With all 536 of the San Diego county precincts reporting, four-term Democratic assemblywoman Lacy Killea led her Republican opponent, freshman assemblywoman Carol Bentley, by 1,528 votes.

Although 2,500 to 3,000 absentee ballots remained to be counted this afternoon, Bentley said at a news conference that she did not think they would make a difference. (AP)

PARIS: A French court ruled Wednesday that author Regine Deforges plagiarized the classic novel "Gone With The Wind" and ordered her and her publisher to pay the American novelist's heirs two million francs (\$333,000) in damages and interest.

The heirs of American writer Margaret Mitchell say Ms Deforges deliberately copied parts of "Gone With The Wind" for her best-selling novel "The Blue Bicycle."

The American Trust Company Bank which holds the world rights to Margaret Mitchell's work, had sought five million francs (\$833,000) from Ms Deforges and her publisher, Editions Ramsay. (AP)

WASHINGTON: The US government should promote the study of foreign languages and other countries by establishing an agency to address American shortcomings in the field, 165 US business and teaching groups said Wednesday.

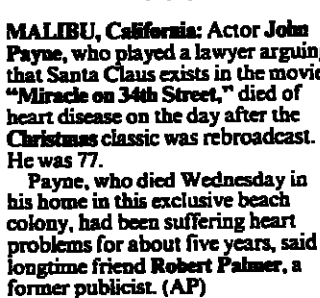
The groups, organized by the Coalition for the Advancement of Languages and International Studies, told a news conference the United States is the only major power that does not require its diplomats to know a foreign language.

It also is one of the few countries in the world where a student can graduate from a university without ever studying one, said the coalition. (AP)

MALIBU, California: Actor John Payne, who played a lawyer arguing that Santa Claus exists in the movie "Miracle on 34th Street," died of heart disease on the day after the Christmas classic was rebroadcast. He was 77.

Payne, who died Wednesday in his home in this exclusive beach colony, had been suffering heart problems for about five years, said longtime friend Robert Palmer, a former publicist. (AP)

PARIS: Melba Manoskian, a communist resistance fighter during World War II and widow of the war hero Minsk Manoskian, who was shot by the Nazis in Paris in 1944, died Wednesday at age 76, friends said Thursday. (UPI)



Dancing faun

The bronze dancing faun by Dutch-born sculptor Adrien de Vries, which was sold for a record \$6.8 million (\$10.75 million) at Sotheby's in London on Thursday. The statue, circa 1610-1616, stood for almost 40 years unnoticed in an elderly couple's garden. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Amniotes include creatures with backbones, such as reptiles, birds and mammals. A tetrapod is a creature with four feet. (UPI)

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Raising aid

Olga Korbut, Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics from the Soviet Union, speaks at a press conference in Indianapolis on Wednesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEW YORK: Columbia University awarded its Mario Moore Cabot prizes for journalism Thursday to two South Americans and two Hispanics working in the United States.

The 51st annual awards honoring journalists in the Western hemisphere for contributions to the advancement of inter-American understanding and freedom of information were conferred on:

— Felipe Lopez Caballero, editor and publisher of the weekly news magazine Semanin in Bogota, Colombia.

— Humberto Rabin Schwartzman, director of radio Nanduti in Asuncion, Paraguay.

— Juan Vazquez, correspondent for CBS news in Miami.

— Arturo Villar, publisher at Vista, a weekly magazine for Hispanics in the United States. (UPI)

SPOKANE, Washington: Jurors were asked Wednesday to acquit a frail and elderly black man who said he shot and killed a white man in self-defense after a year and a half of racial harassment.

Even prosecution witnesses in the case against Julius Johnson, 75, described victim Charles Beck as a loud-mouthed, racist bully.

"He liked to pick on people who couldn't defend themselves," testified Kathy Stahl, a cook at the Mayfair Bar and Cafe where Johnson admits he shot Beck to death last May. (UPI)

HUNTSVILLE, Texas: A man with a long history of juvenile offenses was executed by injection early Thursday for a robbery-murder of a woman whose pleas for mercy were recorded by a police dispatcher.

Carlos Delma, 27, was pronounced dead at 12:24 am (0524 GMT). He was condemned to death for the 1983 robbery-slaying of Wanda Jean Lopez, 24, a service station clerk in Corpus Christi.

"I want to say I hold no grudges," Delma said in a brief final statement. "I hate nobody. I want my family to know I love them. I want to tell everyone on death row to keep the faith up — to keep going. Everything will be all right." (AP)

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Police, meanwhile, were on alert throughout the city to quell any violence resulting from the verdict in the racially sensitive trial.

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ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.: Caesars Hotel Casino was fined \$250,000 on Wednesday for pandering to the prejudices of a high-stakes gambler who wanted to gamble only with white male dealers.

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Libutti, a horse-racing consultant, had let it be known to mid-level casino officials that he preferred to play in games run by white men only. (Reuter)

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Fain dies

Composer Sammy Fain, a two-time Academy award winner who wrote "Love Is A Many Splendored Thing" and "I'll Be Seeing You," died on Wednesday.

NEW YORK: The son of a United Nations diplomat attached to the mission of Greece was murdered Tuesday on a New York street apparently when he resisted a mugger.

The victim is 26-year-old Chris Zacharopoulos, an advertising executive with the first of Backer Spielvogel Bates Worldwide for the past two years, whose mother, Maria Vasilou, is third secretary to the mission and has worked there since 1973.

The victim's attacker fled but police said they have a witness who saw the attack. (Kuna)

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Swiss charge 2 Syrians, Noriega for link to laundering ring.

ZURICH, Dec 8, (Agencies): Swiss authorities charged two Syrian brothers yesterday with helping an international ring pump more than a billion dollars in drug profits through Swiss banks and finance companies.

The formal filing of drug charges against Jean and Barkev Magharian caps an investigation into Switzerland's biggest drugs and money-laundering scandal, which ended the career of a Swiss justice minister.

Meanwhile in Lafayette, Louisiana prosecution witness Stephen Kalish testified yesterday that he formed an organisation

with Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega and others to launder drug money for the Ochoa family of Colombia.

Kalish, serving time in Florida as a repeat offender in drug enterprises, is testifying for the government in US district court against 23 men accused of smuggling vast amounts of marijuana and cocaine.

The Magharians, Syrians of Armenian descent, were accused of channelling two billion Swiss francs (\$1.25) in drug profits through Switzerland between 1985 and their arrest in Zurich on July 7, 1988, their formal indictment said.

The indictment, released to the press by judge Franco Verda in the southern Swiss town of Bellinzona, said billions in drug money flowed to Switzerland from Turkey by way of Bulgaria and from the United States. The Magharians have been held in investigative custody since their arrest. Their trial is scheduled to start in March or April.

The charges come two weeks after a parliamentary commission found Swiss justice officials had largely ignored major inter-

national drug and money-laundering rings despite repeated warnings from prosecutors. Money-laundering is not yet a crime in Switzerland, but legislation outlawing the practice is expected to get final approval early next year. At present, money-laundering is an offence only if it can be shown the funds are going to be used in drug trafficking.

US district courts in Los Angeles and New York have indicted the Magharians on charges of conspiracy to launder money and transport money out of the country without filing

reports, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, and possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute it.

In yesterday's testimony, Kalish said the organisation handled \$50 million to \$100 million monthly for the Ochoa family, described by law enforcement authorities as co-leaders of the Medellin drug cartel.

Kalish said the money-laundering organisation received a 5 per cent commission.

Kalish, who has claimed a close relationship with Noriega, who is chief of the Pan-

amanian Defence Forces, said he once purchased a \$2-million helicopter for Noriega.

In 1984, when Kalish was arrested, he said he wrote to Noriega encouraging him to continue the lucrative money-laundering transactions and promised to keep the operation secret.

Former Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp will go on trial Feb 19 before the supreme court on charges of warning her lawyer husband about a money-laundering investigation, it was announced yesterday.

Alarm over Aids

Women thrice more prone

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (AP): The national commission on Aids says it submitted its first report to the White House eight months early because the crisis has become too urgent to wait.

"We have heard what people were telling us — that a crisis situation does exist," said Dr David Rogers, vice-chairman of the commission that began its work in August.

The commission recently released the six-page report it sent to President George Bush, calling for "a national voice" to repair a health care system that is in danger of crumbling under the weight of a worsening Aids epidemic.

"The public health care system in this country is not working well and nowhere is that more evident than for people with Aids and people infected with the HIV virus, the cause of Aids, the report says.

"While Aids is not the cause of the health care system's disarray, it may well be the crisis that could pressure responsible national action to correct its serious short-falls," the report said.

Among the problems cited are a lack of training for primary care doctors to treat people with HIV infection and Aids and low reimbursement rates that discourage physicians from treating patients with Aids.

Also, many Aids patients have no public or private health insurance, which limits their access to life-prolonging drugs, the report said.

The commission was required to draft its first report by August 1990. But commissioners told Bush in a letter that testimony they heard during four days of hearing "was so compelling we felt it was vital to write to you now."

Dr Louis Sullivan, who as secretary of the department of health and human services is a non-voting member of the commission, did not participate in writing the report and his press office was not aware of the document until asked about it by reporters.

James Brown, a spokesman for Sullivan, said the secretary has expressed concern about some of the same issues addressed by the report. However, Brown took issue with the

Medicine

Steroids may be addictive: People who take steroids to build up their physiques may be flirting with an addiction on a par with cocaine, alcohol and opiate-like drugs, researchers said on Thursday.

"Obviously, there are now reports of anabolic steroid hormone use over longer periods of time than was desired, with attempts to stop use that have failed," said the report from Yale University School of Medicine.

Some users have been unable to quit even though they know they are suffering psychiatric disturbances and "there is a recent report of heavy anabolic steroid use that continued despite a severe deterioration in the user's personal life that included drug dealing to support the habit," it added. (Reuters)

Drug to cure baldness: A new drug has shown promising results in the battle to reverse baldness with no side effects, a new study said.

The drug (cyctol) blocks the male hormone testosterone from attaching to hair follicles and causing them to shrink and stop growing hair, says Dr Richard Strick of UCLA medical school.

Strick presented his findings to a meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology. (Kuna)

Fish oil helpful to diabetics: Fish oil may help people with diabetes reduce their blood pressure and plug up leaking blood vessels, according to a study released.

A team led by Dr Tommy Jensen of the Steno Memorial Hospital in Gentofte, Denmark, asked 18 volunteers with insulin-dependent diabetes to take a daily 21 millilitre dose of either cod liver oil or olive oil, the study published in the current issue of the New England Journal of Medicine said.

After eight weeks, the researchers found that patients who took cod liver oil had healthier cholesterol levels, had reduced the amount of a key protein leaking out of blood vessels and had lower blood pressure. (Reuters)

Food irradiation: Irradiated food could make a substantial contribution to the exports of many Third World countries, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean where food exports to the United States and Canada alone average \$26 billion a year.

Currently, food from this region is not irradiated, but the situation is likely to change in the 1990s, as research and the development of food irradiation technology are both intensified.

This was stated at an international conference recently held in Orlando, Florida, says the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), one of the sponsors of the event, along with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). (Kuna)

proposition contained in the report that national leadership is lacking.

"There has been leadership from this department and there will continue to be," Brown said, citing the department's work on Aids education programmes, during research at the national institutes of health and federal funds undermedicaid to treat people with Aids.

But the commission said more needs to be done.

"To date, there is no national policy or plan, and no national."

Kenyan medical scientists have discovered a drug which they claim halts the effects and

symptoms of the killer disease within days.

"We do not claim to have a cure for Aids but we have given Aids sufferers the best chance available and another chance to lead normal lives," Dr Davy Koech, head of Kenya's state-assisted Medical Research Institute, said.

Women are three times more likely than men to contract the Aids virus through intercourse, according to a research on yesterday in London.

A sexual contact once a day with an HIV infected man will on average lead to infection for a woman within a year, it found.

Bit of cocaine risk to heart

BOSTON, Dec 8, (AP): Very tiny amounts of cocaine, smaller than those commonly given by doctors for anaesthesia, can trigger a significant fall in the flow of blood to the heart, a study shows.

Young, seemingly healthy cocaine abusers sometimes suffer chest pain or heart attacks, even though their heart arteries appear to be perfectly normal. Doctors have speculated that the drug causes spasms in blood vessels and temporarily chokes off the flow of blood to heart muscle.

"The importance of our findings was showing that this indeed happens," said Dr L. David Hillis. "No one has shown it in man before."

Common

Cotton strips soaked in a cocaine solution are routinely used as a local anaesthetic in an estimated 185,000 medical procedures in the United States each year. It is especially common during minor nose operations since it limits bleeding as well as deadens pain.

In their experiment on 45 people, doctors tested cocaine's effects on the heart when volunteers received doses that were about two-thirds the amount used for anaesthesia. They got 150 to 180 milligrammes of cocaine. By contrast, people who abuse cocaine typically take a one gramme dose, or six times this much.

"Even that small dose caused coronary blood flow to fall by about 15 to 20 per cent," said Hillis. "One can extrapolate from that to say that in all probability a much larger dose would in some people cause a very profound fall in blood flow."

Safer

The study, conducted by Hillis and colleagues at the University of Texas southwestern medical centre in Dallas, was published in Thursday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Hillis said that despite the finding, the medical use of cocaine as a anaesthetic is safe, the volunteers showed no sign in their hearts of ischemia, or oxygen starvation.

Hillis said some people's heart arteries respond much more dramatically than others' to the potential hazards of cocaine. In his study, he said, the reduction in blood flow ranged from 5 per cent to about 40 per cent.

He said these individual differences may explain why some people have heart attacks or die from cocaine abuse, while most do not.

In an accompanying editorial, Drs Jeffrey M. Isner and Saurabh K. Chokshi of St Elizabeth's hospital in Boston noted that during the past year, the number of emergency room visits for cocaine-related problems has increased fivefold.

Insight

"While laboratory studies offer increased insight into the fundamental effects of cocaine," they wrote, "the history of this ancient drug grows progressively more depressing."

Hillis said cocaine stimulates the body's production of adrenaline and other hormones. These trigger the blood vessels to narrow so that less oxygen-carrying blood can get through. At the same time, the drug increases the heart's need for oxygen by boosting the heart rate.

There have been numerous reports of people suffering heart attacks after taking large amounts of cocaine. Laboratory studies have suggested the drug may cause heart attacks by constricting blood vessels. The new findings are the first to demonstrate that effect on living humans.



Clears the way

A bloodied officer of the Colombian Security and Intelligence Agency (DAS) clears the ground of people searching for the missing after a

bomb blast on Dec 6. At least 40 persons were killed and some 200 injured in the blast. (Reuters wirephoto)



Left: The Security and Intelligence (DAS) building lies in ruins after a truck loaded with some 500 kgs of dynamite exploded nearby. At least 52 people died and about 1,000 injured. Right: Gen. Miguel Maza Marquez of DAS speaks with reporters after the blast. Swiss police have released pictures of two Colombian alleged drug dealers Mario Calderon (centre top) and Severo Escobar (centre bottom). (Reuters wirephoto)

Escobar behind bombing

Death toll 52, injured about 1,000

BOGOTA, Dec 8, (UPI): The dynamite explosion that killed 52 people at Colombia's national police offices and last month's bombing of an Avianca airliner that left 111 people dead reportedly were the work of reputed drug kingpin Pablo Escobar.

The capital's Paloqueano district was teeming with rush-hour traffic on Wednesday when the truck bomb exploded at 7:30 am, "completely destroying" the national police headquarters, agency chief Gen. Manuel Maza Marquez said.

The death toll reached 52 by evening, and the number of wounded was expected to reach 1,000, Maza said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but there seemed little doubt it was the work of the drug cartels that have been responsible for more than 250 bombings and many assassinations since August.

The cartels unleashed a wave of terror after President Virgilio Barco on Aug 18 re-established extradition to the United States of wanted drug traffickers.

The drug cartels' self-described "Extraditables" hit squad threatened to escalate the 3-month-old drug war unless the

issue of extradition of drug trafficking suspects to the United States is put to a public vote.

The threat was sent to RCN radio, which read the statement on the air.

The House of Representatives voted Tuesday to include extradition on a Jan 21 referendum, infuriating the Barco administration, but the Senate has yet to consider the issue.

NBC-TV nightly news, quoting US law enforcement officials, said the truck bomb and the Nov 27 downing of an Avianca airliner was "clearly the work of Medellin cartel boss Pablo Escobar."

The officials said Escobar ordered the attacks after learning that Colombian police had ordered a secret "get Escobar" squad to assassinate the fugitive and bring back his body, NBC said. Members of the purported squad were in pursuit last month when Escobar narrowly escaped — wearing only his underwear — into Colombia's northern jungles.

President Barco cut short his official visit to Japan today and was on his way home.

Barco and his party left on a flight from Tokyo's new inter-

national airport at 11:30 am 4-1/2 hours earlier than scheduled.

Barco declared he would beat the "bloody terror" of the drug barons he blamed for a huge bomb blast that devastated Colombia's security agency.

"We are not going to allow ourselves to fall before the bloody terror of the Narco terrorists," Barco said in a television address to the nation.

"They will not defeat us, we will continue the fight. Their war is against all of Colombia and democracy," he added.

President George Bush, who recently described himself as a "macho" guy, isn't backing down from all-but-certain plans to attend a drug summit early next year in violence-ravaged Colombia.

Meanwhile, a dynamite bomb exploded Thursday on a road in the northern coastal city of Cartagena, killing two policemen, a police spokesman told broadcast network RCN.

Pamphlets of the National Liberation Army, the most active of six leftist rebel groups, were found near the bodies, according to the spokesman, who declined identification for security reasons.

Swiss cops net kin of pusher

LUGANO, Switzerland, Dec 8, (AP): Police said Wednesday they have arrested Severo "Junior" Escobar, a nephew of an alleged Colombian drug kingpin.

A police official who declined to give his name confirmed press reports that the 30-year-old Colombian was arrested Nov 29. The official declined to give further details pending further investigation.

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Ursula Riedel said Swiss authorities had not yet received any extradition requests for Escobar, described in some press reports as the top Colombian drug trafficker in Europe.

He is the nephew of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the alleged head of Colombia's Medellin drug cartel. Pablo Escobar is considered one of the top 12 Colombian drug dealers sought in the United States.

The arrested man's father, also called Severo, was sentenced to a 30-year jail sentence in the United States in 1984 on drug-trafficking charges.

Police arrested the younger Escobar and four Colombian companions in a raid on a luxury hotel in the Swiss-Italian border town of Lugano, where the group had been staying for two months, the French-language newspaper Tribune de Geneve reported.

The newspaper said police also seized 3 kilos (6.6 pounds) of cocaine.

The police raid followed seven months of police investigations in Switzerland, Spain, the Netherlands, and West Germany. Tribune de Geneve said.

Pap test gap increases cancer risk

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (AP): Women who wait more than two years between pap smear tests run a greatly increased risk of developing the most common type of cervical cancer, says a new study of women in Washington state.

The research, published this month in the professional journal Obstetrics and Gynecology, shows that among women who get pap smear tests every three years the risk of developing cervical cancer is 3.9 times greater than among women who have the test annually.

And for women who have pap tests at intervals of 10 years or greater, the cervical cancer risk increases 12.3 times. Tests every two years have about the same effect as tests conducted annually, according to the research.

"The study shows that women should get pap smears more frequently than every three years," said Dr Joseph Chu, one of five doctors who conducted the study at the University of Washington. "The risk of having advanced disease goes way down if the tests are conducted every two years or less."

Chu said that the more frequent pap tests lower the cancer risk for all women, no matter what other risk factors, such as smoking or multiple sexual partners, they have in their life.

The pap smear is used in gynecological screening to detect the presence of squamous cell cancer, the most common form of cervical cancer. It can also detect changes in cells that could lead to cancer if not treated — thus the test can result in therapy that prevents the cancer from developing.

To perform a pap test, doctors collect cells from the mucous membrane of the cervix during a routine pelvic examination. The cells then are stained for laboratory analysis. The procedure is known formally as the Papanicolaou stain test for George Nicolas Papanicolaou, the physician who developed it.

Just how frequently such tests should be performed to afford maximum protection has long been a matter of controversy.



SPECIAL KUCHUPUDI DANCE SHOW ON SATURDAY 9-12-89

Due to popular demand, it has been decided to have a special performance of Kuchupudi dance today, 9-12-89 at 8pm by Padmasri (Dr.) Raja Reddy and Padmasri (Dr.) Radha Reddy at IAC, Funatees. The programme will be a combination of 7th and 8th performance with additional special numbers set to Hindi music.

Passes are available at IAC office. Phone: 3904817



National Christmas tree

First Lady Barbara Bush accepted the traditional White House Christmas tree while deftly preventing a potential confrontation between two delivery horses and Millie, the first family's dog.

While giving a proud thumbs-up for her husband's performance at his Malta summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Mrs Bush scooped up Millie to avoid any conflict with horses Fred and Dick, who hauled the 18-foot Fraser fir by buggy up the White House drive.

Although President Bush has reported that Millie has slain more than a dozen unfortunate rodents on the White House grounds, the dog did not pay much heed to the red ribbon-bedecked Belgian draft horses. "It would just ruin it if you did something," Mrs Bush scolded the pooch. (Reuters wirephoto)

Another plane may be bombed

Airport security still lax

LONDON, Dec 8, (AP) — Another airplane could be bombed tomorrow because governments, airports and airlines have not improved security following last year's explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, a report published this week warned.

Airport security world-wide is based on outdated hijacking threats of the 1960s and 1970s, is unable to detect modern plastic explosives used by terrorists, and unprepared for the potential use of surface-to-air missiles, it said.

"We are way behind in taking the necessary measures that will help to prevent this kind of tragedy happening again," said Paul Wilkinson, an expert on international terrorism and professor at Scotland's University of St Andrews who wrote the report.

"Another Lockerbie could happen tomorrow," he told a news conference.

Wilkinson's report, "The Lessons of Lockerbie," was released Wednesday to mark the Dec 21 first anniversary of the disaster which killed all 259 crew members and passengers on the New York-bound flight and 11 people on the ground.

Investigators have said a bomb containing powerful plastic explosives, probably the Czechoslovak-made Semtex, was concealed in a radio-cassette player packed in a suitcase in the Boeing 747's forward hold. The flight originated in Frankfurt and passengers and baggage transferred to a larger plane at London's Heathrow airport.

Wilkinson said more people have been killed in airport or airplane bombings in the past five years than in hijacking over the past 50 years, 1,059 compared with 638.

"Many passengers do not apparently realise that aviation terrorism acts now via technical failure and pilot error as major causes of fatalities in civil aviation," his report said.

However, in poor countries in Africa and Asia, airport security "is no more than cosmetic," with airports often lacking perimeter security, trained staff and equipment, he said.

Even in wealthy countries such as the United States, airports are "full of major security loopholes," he said. Passengers are poorly screened, if at all, and not all baggage is accompanied by passengers, he said.

"In an international form of transport such as civil aviation, security will only be as strong as its weakest link," Wilkinson said.

Scottish and West German police have denied published reports of poor co-operation in their hunt for the Flight 103 bombers.

The Swedish government has given permission for Scottish police to remove from Sweden evidence seized from a Palestinian suspected of complicity in bombing Pan Am Flight 103 last year.

The cabinet's decision yesterday was a formal step needed by investigators to conduct a forensic examination of clothing taken during a raid on the home of Mohammed Abu Talb, a former member of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, who has lived in Sweden since 1983.

Sweden yesterday approved the transfer to Britain of evidence that could link a detained Palestinian to last December's Lockerbie airliner bombing which killed 270 people.

"Great Britain has formally requested the transfer, and it was approved at a cabinet meeting today," Justice Ministry official Anne-Marie Bergstrom told Reuters.

The decision cleared the way for forensic tests to be conducted in Scotland of clothes seized last week at the apartment of Mohamed Abu Talb, 35, a Palestinian who had been living in the Swedish town of Uppsala.

Apparent calm in San Salvador

Rebel leader freed

SAN SALVADOR, Dec 8, (UPI) — Salvadoran armed forces today reported apparent calm in the capital and other parts of the country one day after heavy fighting between US-backed troops and leftist rebels.

"Right now everything is normal in the capital," said a spokesman for the Salvadoran armed forces. "No confrontations are reported and last night there were only sporadic shots heard."

The Salvadoran armed forces reported yesterday that soldiers had killed 110 rebels of the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, in fierce fighting on the San Salvador volcano.

A leftist political leader also was reported missing, but the clandestine rebel radio Veneceros said in a broadcast this morning that Jorge Villacorta of the leftist Popular Social Christian Movement party has been freed.

The broadcast said Villacorta's body has signs of torture. The rebel claim could not be immediately confirmed, but a spokesman for the Popular Social Christian Movement said Villacorta would explain what happened to him at a news con-

ference scheduled for noon EST (1700 GMT).

The spokesman said Villacorta was detained Wednesday evening at San Salvador's Cuscatlan international airport after arriving from a trip to Mexico.

In an interview published today with the Los Angeles Times, a US church worker charged with storing arms for the rebels said the government tried to frame her by videotaping her and two friends next to the weapons.

Jennifer Casolo, 28, of Thomaston, Connecticut, under arrest in San Salvador, said police swarmed the house where she was living and began "moving things in the backyard, and there was a lot of noise and commotion."

Casolo works for Christian Educational Seminars, a US religious group that organises tours in El Salvador for US lawmakers, religious leaders and other US citizens.

Recent fighting in the streets of San Salvador killed about 2,000 people, mostly civilians, a member of a leftist guerrilla group said in an interview published by a Peruvian newspaper.

Animal-human transplants: The transfer of geotically altered animal organs into humans is a real possibility and will open up a new era in transplant surgery, it was reported in London today.

A consultant chest physician with the lung transplant programme at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, southern England, Tim Higenbottam was quoted by the British media as saying on Friday that organs which could be transplanted successfully between different animal species would be available next year.

He believed that the experiment "looks as if it is going to work." (Kuna)

Hi-Fi pioneer Grundig dies: Max Grundig, famed for the top quality high fidelity systems and radios bearing his name, died in hospital on Thursday, aged 81.

A self-made man, Grundig built his firm up after World War Two to become market leader in home entertainment products and a symbol of West Germany's economic miracle.

But Grundig's market share came under increasing pressure in the late 1970s from cheaper Japanese products, and in 1980 the company suffered its first losses. (Reuters)

Cocaine haul at Rotterdam port: Dutch police said on Friday they seized 330 kg (725 pounds) of cocaine worth \$15 million from a container at Rotterdam port, the biggest haul of the drug they have ever made.

Three men and one woman, all Dutch nationals, were arrested in connection with the shipment which was uncovered last week and probably originated in Surinam, a police spokesman said.

"The cocaine was found during a routine customs check. It is the largest amount of cocaine ever found in one shipment in the Netherlands," the spokesman said. (Reuters)

Heroine seized: Police last week seized 35-36 kg (77-79 pounds) of heroin from a Porsche in a luxury hotel's parking lot, the largest seizure of heroin in the French capital for 15 years.

Police sources said three Americans were arrested in the drugs raid.

Narcotics agents last week seized 25 kg (55 pounds) of pure heroin and arrested a suspected Pakistani dealer and two Turkish associates. The drug were in a parcel aboard a Syrian-registered truck near St Quentin, north of Paris. (Reuters)

Bodies found in canoe club: The bodies of four men shot through the head were found early on Thursday in an exclusive Naples canoe club and police said the killings were apparently linked to a mafia war.

The bodies were found sprawled across the floor and benches of a changing room, by two members of the club when they arrived for an early morning workout.

The victims were aged from 22 to 58 and three had criminal records. (Reuters)

Intentional injuries common: One in every 130 children in the United States required hospital care each year for injuries resulting from fights, suicide attempts and other intentional acts of violence, a study found.

Intentional injuries are now recognised as a major cause of death among children and teenagers in the United States. The latest research was intended to see how often violence results in significant but non-fatal injuries.

The study, based on Massachusetts data gathered a decade ago, found that such harm is relatively common, especially among city dwellers and poor people. (AP)

DC cocaine kingpin convicted: A US jury convicted a 24-year-old man of operating a \$2 million-a-week cocaine-distribution network in the nation's capital, a verdict that mandates life imprisonment.

Rayful Edmond III was found guilty of all seven counts against him after more than four days of deliberations that capped a 12-week trial. Ten co-defendants were convicted of related charges. (AP)

Drug dealer sentenced: A federal judge, who said he grew up in the same area as the accused, sentenced a 22-year-old Los Angeles drug dealer to life in prison without possibility of parole for selling five ounces of crack.

"I know the neighbourhood and I know the way it



Nobel winners for medicine

Nobel prize winners in medicine, Michael Bishop (left) and Harold E. Varmus (right) during a press conference in Stockholm Dec 7. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ortega campaigning

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, waves to supporters as he rides through Masaya, Nicaragua. Ortega has been drawing large crowds as he campaigns for re-election. With him at left is Vice-President Sergio Ramirez and at right is National Assembly candidate William Ramirez. (Reuters wirephoto)

has changed," Judge David Williams said in passing sentence on Richard van Winrow. "This man is one of the enemy."

Winrow was believed to be one of the first to receive a life prison term under the stiff sentencing guidelines for drug dealers that was passed by Congress last year. (Reuters)

B'Nai B'Rith women stunned: "Stunned and appalled" is how leaders of the 120,000-member B'Nai B'Rith international women's auxiliary described apparent efforts by the organisation to expel it.

Women's branch president Hyla Lipsky said the women wanted to keep an affinity with the organisation to press for special women's issues like abortion rights, child care laws and to help women balance their families and jobs.

She pledged in a New York Times interview not to "roll over and play dead" following B'Nai B'Rith's leader's action last Sunday. (Kuna)

Bush nominates: President George Bush will name Adm. David E. Jeremiah, commander of the US Pacific Fleet, as vice-chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, the White House announced.

Jeremiah, who serves as commander in chief in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, will succeed Gen. Robert T. Herres, who is retiring. (AP)

Criticism on canal nominee: The White House defended its decision to name a Panamanian as acting administrator of the Panama Canal against criticism that it disrupts the treaty rules for eventually transferring control of the waterway to Panama.

"We think this was the correct course of action," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in replying to charges by members of the political opposition in Panama.

The treaties require that a Panamanian take charge as administrator of the canal on Jan 1, 1990, for the first time in the 75-year history of the waterway. The treaties also stipulate that it is up to the government of Panama to nominate a canal administrator, then for the US President to appoint him, subject to Senate confirmation. (AP)

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Experts: sea rise may be modest

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 8, (AP) — If the "greenhouse effect" warms the Earth, sea levels will rise only about one-third as much as previously believed, reducing the severity of predicted coastal flooding in the next century, several scientists say.

A major reason is that the south polar ice sheet will get bigger, instead of melting as commonly believed, because a warmer atmosphere carries more moisture and will dump more snow on Antarctica, the researchers said at a meeting yesterday.

"We have destruction along our coasts now even with modestly rising sea level. There are going to be more and more problems, but they won't be as bad as we thought a few years ago," said glaciologist Mark Meier, director of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

A 1985 National Academy of Sciences report concluded global warming would cause about a 39-inch (11-metre), rise in sea level by about the year 2050 — enough to allow storm surges to devastate low-lying areas along the US Gulf coast, Florida, Bangladesh and the Maldives, Meier said.

But nine studies presented during the American Geophysical Union's fall meeting led to a new consensus that the sea-level rise will total about 14 inches (35 cms), although a great deal of uncertainty remains. That means the sea level could do anything between dropping 2 inches (5 centimetres) and rising as much as 30 inches (76 cms).

Many of the same scientists helped write the 1985 report, which said sea level could rise anywhere from 20 inches (50 centimetres) to 59 inches (1.4 metres). Meier and others emphasised their new forecast only holds true until about 2050 or a bit later, and that rising sea levels could become more severe after that.

Sea level now is rising about one-tenth of an inch (one-quarter of a centimetre) annually, but scientists don't know why. They have been unable to pin blame on the "greenhouse effect" theory, which says carbon dioxide and other automotive and industrial pollutants will warm Earth's atmosphere by trapping solar heat like glass in a greenhouse.

Many scientists said on Wednesday they can't find evidence the greenhouse effect had started yet, although "the broad agreement among scientists is there will be global warming," said hydrologist Jeff Dozier of the University of California, Santa Barbara. "But there is disagreement about precisely how much warming."

Global warming may hit the Northern Hemisphere harder than Antarctica, indicating that the South Pole's ice cap may not melt as quickly as some scientists fear.

Earlier studies of global warming found its impact on Northern and Southern hemispheres would be almost identical. But researchers at Princeton University in the United States said increases in southern temperatures could lag half a century or so behind those in the north.

Using a new computer model which takes into account the interaction of the atmosphere with the circulation of the oceans, they showed the two hemispheres would respond differently to rising carbon dioxide concentrations.

Scientists believe the release of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse gases" into the atmosphere is trapping heat near the Earth's surface in the so-called "greenhouse effect."

Mankind has for decades treated the environment as a dumping ground and immediate precautions are needed to protect it from being damaged further, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said.

The Aral Sea, once one of the world's largest lakes, is shrinking so steadily after years of irrigating cotton fields that it could disappear completely by the year 2010, a Soviet expert said.

Bus knocked off bridge, 50 dead

LAGOS, Dec. 8, (AP) — An overloaded bus was knocked off a narrow bridge into a river, killing at least 50 people, Lagos newspapers reported yesterday.

The newspapers said the accident occurred at Majidun, near Lagos, late Tuesday.

Witnesses quoted by the newspapers said the bus driver was trying to get around a car stalled on the bridge when the driver of truck coming from behind crashed into the bus and knocked it into the river.

The newspapers said the bus was built to carry 40 passengers but was believed to have been carrying twice that number.

France forms immigration task force after row

PARIS, Dec. 8, (AP) — Stung by the electoral success of the extreme-right National Front and a fierce debate over rights for Muslims, the government has appointed a trouble-shooter to formulate new policy for integrating immigrants into French society.

Premier Michel Rocard named Hubert Prevot as permanent secretary of an inter-ministerial committee to

address what has become the leading issue in domestic politics.

"The economic situation of France no longer permits us to be a land of immigration," said government spokesman Louis Le Pen after the appointment was announced at the weekly cabinet meeting.

"It's now a question of integrating foreigners who have come to make their

homes here and wish to live here permanently," Le Pen said.

Prevot, 61, will head a task force of 13 ministers to grapple with the issues of integrating Muslims into the secular school system, the definition of a political refugee, illegal workers and immigrant housing.

The committee will submit its conclusions to the government sometime

after Jan. 31.

The creation of the task force represents a victory for the National Front headed by Jean-Marie Le Pen, who has fulfilled a long-held goal of putting immigration high on the government's agenda.

It comes the same day Marie-France Stirbois took the party's first seat in the National Assembly since electoral

reforms in 1988. Mrs Stirbois won the seat for suburban Dreux in a runoff election Sunday against a candidate from the traditional right.

Immigration exploded into a front-page issue in October after three girls with North African origins insisted on wearing Islamic scarves to their junior high school.

Le Pen has pushed the issue for years,

arguing that social payments to immigrants cut into benefits for native French citizens.

A majority of French people believe that immigration has become a major issue, which has to be dealt with very soon if one does not want France to be threatened by racism, and added they were concerned by the victory of the racist National Front.



Djohar the interim President of the Comoros refused to say whether he wants mercenaries to stay. (Reuter wirephoto)

Scribes ousted

Protest in Comoros

NAIROBI, Dec. 8, (AP) — European mercenaries ruling the Comoros expelled 11 foreign correspondents after seizing their notebooks, film and cassette tapes and accusing them of inciting anti-government demonstrations, said one of the reporters.

The mercenaries have controlled the islands since president Ahmed Abdulla Abderrahmane was assassinated Nov. 26.

They confined the journalists to their hotel in the island's capital Moroni, for four hours yesterday afternoon before driving them to the airport for an Air France flight to Nairobi, said Gary Streiker, one of the expelled reporters.

Two journalists for the French newspaper Le Figaro were allowed to remain on the island, said Streiker, the Nairobi-based Africa correspondent for the American television Cable News Network.

Those expelled yesterday included reporters for CNN, the Reuters and Agence France-Presse news agencies, the Daily Telegraph of London, Radio France Internationale and the Sygma photo news agency, said Streiker.

Streiker, who only arrived on the island yesterday morning, said the journalists were informed of their expulsion by a mercenary identifying himself only as Le Guerrier — French for the warrior.

Streiker said the mercenaries accused the journalists of inciting "demonstrations and disorder" and confiscated some of their cassette tapes, notebooks and film.

About 1,000 high school students staged the largest demonstration since the Abderrahmane's assassination protesting the mercenaries' control of the islands. The presidential guard used tear gas and clubs to disperse the protest.

Agence France-Presse, meanwhile, reported from Paris that French military forces in the Indian Ocean stood ready to intervene if the deteriorating political situation imperils French nationals.

"We haven't any intention at all of intervening, but we have taken precautions," the agency quoted a well-informed source.

There was no official comment from the Defence Ministry. France keeps a Foreign Legion garrison stationed on the French-administered island of Mayotte in the Comoro archipelago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Locked in debate: American conservatives are locked in a debate over an American Enterprise Institute proposal to ease immigration policy.

The plan unveiled by AEI, a non-profit conservative think tank, would:

— Raise the total number of legal immigration allowed into the United States from 605,000 a year to between 850,000 and 900,000 a year.

— Raise the current cap on admissions of "needed skilled, unskilled and educated persons from any country, of any family status," from 54,000 to 300,000 a year.

— Provide 150,000 special "liberty visas" yearly for Eastern Europeans. The visas would be good for 10 years.

— Provide 75,000 special visas for Western Europeans and other groups adversely affected by 1965 amendments to US Immigration and Naturalisation laws. (Kuna)

Bigger security role: Australia aims to adopt a more high-profile security role in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia, according to a policy statement released last week by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans.

Evans, presenting the 46-page report to parliament, said, "for Australia, the essential fact is that we are dealing with a more fluid and complex region, and that in doing so we will be required to be much more the master of our own fate than we have been prepared to accept until recently." (AP)

Japan, US police confer: Japanese and US police are alarmed by the expanding reach of Japan's organized crime gangs into the United States and the Pacific region, Kyodo News Service reported on Friday.

Senior officers from both countries ended three days of talks on Friday, the sixth such meeting since they formally began to tackle the problem together in 1980. (Reuter)

Large-scale drug ring cracked: The Seoul district prosecutor's office arrested 17 people on Friday for prosecution on charges of manufacturing, selling and using a large amount of an addictive drug called heroin.

A prosecution spokesman said two others were under investigation and four were being sought for involvement in the case, in which more than 100 kg (220.5 pounds) of the drug made from opium was produced and put on sale.

The arrested included nine accused of producing and selling the drug and eight who habitually purchased and used it, the spokesman said. It was the largest drug case ever cracked in South Korea, the spokesman said. (UPI)

UK officials in Cambodia: British officials on Thursday were on their way to the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, for the first such visit in 13 years.

But the Foreign Office in London denied the mission, to discuss aid for the poor, was intended to encourage Vietnam to accept the return of more than 40,000 Vietnamese boat people living in camps in Hong Kong.

A decision on whether to return them to Vietnam involuntarily is due to be announced shortly. (Kuna)

10 killed in Durban violence: Ten blacks were killed, four of them by police, and dozens of homes were set on fire as political faction-fighting escalated in black townships heading the port city of Durban, police said on Friday.

Police said a rampaging gang destroyed 41 homes and looted 51 others on Thursday in Lindelani. Police founded the hacked bodies of four men and reported that three more were killed by police gunfire when officers were attacked while trying to restore order.

Police headquarters said two men were stabbed to death in the township of Amawoti and policeman shot dead another man in Inanda while trying to disperse a mob stoning a house. (AP)

Police recommend public whipping: Police have recommended that current drug laws be strengthened by introducing public whipping and the placing of addicts in isolation.

Malaysia's anti-drug laws already are among the strictest in the world, with a death sentence mandatory for selling drugs. Mere possession of more than 10 grammes of heroin is deemed to be drug trafficking and actual sale need not be proved.

The proposed whipping and isolation would be for lesser offences. (AP)

China sends two to death

Murder of policeman during Beijing assault

BEIJING, Dec. 8, (Agencies) — A Beijing court today sentenced two men to death and another to life prison in the death of a policeman during the military assault on pro-democracy protesters on June 3-4.

The official Beijing Evening News said the court's verdict reflected the government's bid to "severely attack the counter-revolutionary element's criminal activities and guard the state's safety."

Sentenced to die were Meng Duo, an unemployed worker, and Zhou Jiguo, a restaurant employee. Chen Yong, a worker from the northeast city of Tangshan, received a life sentence.

The three were charged with the murder of Li Guorui, a 20-year-old member of the people's armed police, in an attack before dawn on June 4, at about the same time the military was moving into Tiananmen Square after an all-night thrust through the streets of the capital.

The court said Meng attacked Li's head and body with the handle of a spade while Zhou kicked and beat the young policeman and clubbed him with a stick.

Chen whipped the stricken Li with his belt.

Li was then thrown off the Fuchengmen Bridge located southeast of the square, according to earlier

reports. Li was one of several soldiers and policemen killed during the June 3-4 fighting. They were hailed by Chinese leaders and the official news media as national martyrs who laid down their lives to put down what the government called a "counter-revolutionary rebellion."

Dozens of wreaths of white, yellow, pink and blue paper chrysanthemums were hung from the bridge and a photo of Li was draped in black ribbons. Offerings of fruit and drinks were laid before it.

The government claims that 300 people were killed when the military stormed Beijing to end the student-led pro-democracy demonstrations and that most of the dead were soldiers.

Unofficial Chinese and foreign estimates of the number of deaths range up into the thousands, with almost all the casualties being unarmed citizens killed by soldiers firing into crowds.

China said yesterday the cold war will continue as long as a "few countries" — a reference to the United States and the Soviet Union — practice power politics.

The practice of power politics will eventually jeopardize the relaxation of the international situation

and only lead to a continued cold war," Foreign Ministry spokesman Jin Guizhu said at a weekly news briefing.

China warned today of stern punishments for prostitutes, pimps and sex patrons within the Communist Party as a nationwide campaign against the "six evils" of corruption intensified.

The People's Daily said some party members had become involved in prostitution and, for the first time during the current anti-vice crackdown, it published a list of penalties for those guilty of "repulsive deeds."

China today expressed its "utmost indignation" over US measures to allow Chinese students fearing persecution at home to extend their stays in the United States.

Mainland Chinese nationals who are in Australia illegally, including students who have finished their studies, are to be allowed to stay until at least Jan. 31, 1991, the government said today.

Taiwan will grant political asylum to 12 Chinese dissidents who went to South Korea fearing persecution for involvement in the pro-democracy movement in China, a senior official said today.

Activists accuse Klerk of cover-up

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 8, (AP) — Anti-apartheid church leaders and human rights lawyers today accused President F.W. de Klerk of attempting a cover-up by rejecting calls for an independent inquiry into allegations death squads have operated within the police forces.

The President's decision "is a further licence for the police to carry on killing," the South African Council of Churches said in a statement. "The De Klerk government has denied the people justice."

De Klerk, in his first substantive statement on the death squad controversy, said yesterday an independent judicial inquiry would be too long. He said normal legal procedures were adequate for handling allegations that police hit squads had killed opponents of the white-led government.

"A judicial inquiry can take months, if not years, to reach its final conclusions," De Klerk said. "In the meanwhile, a climate of suspicion and distrust could develop, something the country can ill afford."

Several police officers, some active and some retired, will be investigated and five have been suspended from duty until investigations or legal proceedings are completed, De Klerk and Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in statements.

Justice Minister Kobi Coetsee said two former security policemen whose allegations prompted the inquiry would be prosecuted. One of them, Butana Nofemela, awaits execution for an unrelated murder, and the other, Dirk Coetzee, is believed to have fled abroad.

The Council of Churches, headed by prominent anti-apartheid cleric Desmond Tutu, contended in a statement, "it is clear the issue of the death squads is going to be covered up."

The council said De Klerk's claim that a judicial inquiry would be too lengthy was "cynical and spurious."

"How long did the victims of the death squads have to wait before the South African government was forced by present revelations to even make a pronouncement of the matter?" the statement asked.

Meanwhile, human rights lawyers also attacked the government's decision not to launch a judicial inquiry charging that the public suspected a cover-up.

"I am bitterly disappointed," said Jules Browne, chairman of the anti-apartheid Lawyers for Human Rights.

"Nothing short of a commission of inquiry will satisfy public opinion that there is not an attempt at a cover-up," said liberal lawyer Norman Manes.

President De Klerk, declaring a "climate of suspicion and distrust" threatened to derail his racial reform initiatives, yesterday announced a full-scale probe into the allegations of anti-apartheid activists and the suspension of five policemen from active duty in connection with the cases.

South African police said they seized a large arms cache and arrested five suspected members of a white extremist hit squad dedicated to attacking anti-apartheid activists.



S. African police Captain Edgemoor (second from left) and his squad. (Reuter wirephoto)



Chikane (right) and human rights activist Duncan during a press conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Equal rights for all

Pretoria assures UN

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 8, (Reuters) — South Africa, seeking to head off further international pressure over its apartheid laws, has assured the United Nations that its aim is to eliminate all discrimination.

The commitment was made in a letter from Foreign Minister P.W. Botha to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The UN General Assembly in New York will consider a declaration on apartheid next week.

"The South African government is irrevocably committed to the creation of a new South Africa based on a free and equitable constitutional, social and economic system," Botha said in his letter.

He referred to reforms introduced by President F.W. de Klerk in the three months since he was sworn in, including the release of prominent

political prisoners such as nationalist leader Walter Sisulu.

He said apartheid was no longer government policy and Pretoria's aim was that "all discrimination between groups of Pretoria's people or between individuals shall be eliminated."

South African blacks outnumber whites by five to one but have no vote or representation in the white-led central government.

Many blacks doubt that De Klerk will scrap apartheid entirely. They say his announced vision for the future is based on race, stressing cultural and ethnic differences and residential segregation.

But Botha told the UN that South Africa was committed to establishing a free and equitable social and democratic system in which all people would have equal rights regard-

less of colour, race, sex or creed.

"No individuals or groups would have the right to govern others without their consent. In the social field, the aim is the creation of a free and equitable social system with religious freedom granted to all," he said.

He said his government realised the urgency of starting negotiations with credible black leaders.

Black and white South Africans disagree on how to negotiate a constitutional settlement.

Blacks see a unitary state achieved through a one-man one-vote system, while Pretoria wants a constitution which will preserve group rights and therefore white control.

South Africa will cut military service, compulsory only for white men, from two years to one in 1990, De Klerk said yesterday.

Cold war is not over: Kaifu

TOKYO, Dec. 8, (AP) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today that Tokyo hopes to improve its ties with the Soviet Union, but the cold war is not over and Japan must take the initiative in fostering democracy and peace in Asia.

"I do not believe the cold war has ended and sunk to the bottom of the ocean simply because of the talks in Malta," Kaifu said at a news conference.

Kaifu said Japan hopes that the "great changes in eastern Europe" and the shift from "confrontation to negotiation" in the superpower relationship will ease tensions worldwide, but that Tokyo must take the initiative in Asia.

He pledged that his government will "put out all the sweat it can" into efforts to bring peace to Cambodia and stability to the Korean peninsula.

Kaifu also said Japan can no longer put off efforts to improve its ties with Moscow.

"In the past, Japan's position was that nothing could be done until 'after the' northern territories and peace treaty issues were solved," he said. "But progress on those matters is being made ... and we must expand our ties."

Tokyo and Moscow have not signed a treaty formally ending their World War II hostilities because they remain at odds over a group of small islands in the southern Kurile chain near Hokkaido, Japan's southernmost main island.

Relations began to improve recently after a visit to Japan by a Soviet economic delegation and by Alexander Yakovlev, a leading politburo member. Gorbachev is scheduled to visit Japan in 1991.

Kaifu said the superpower relationship is different in Europe than in Asia.

Soviet - Seoul first step

SEOUL, Dec. 8, (AP) — Staunchly anti-communist South Korea and the Soviet Union agreed today to exchange limited consular ties, the first step toward establishing formal diplomatic relations.

The Seoul government said it has agreed to establish a "consular department" in the Korea trade promotion corporation in Moscow and that the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry would open a similar office in Seoul.

"This will help the two countries to establish formal diplomatic relations and also lay a groundwork for our business to enter the Soviet Union," Foreign Minister Choi Ho-Joong told a news conference.

A ministry statement said the government hoped the move would also help efforts to open relations with neighbouring communist China.

Officials from the ministry will commence duties in Moscow in January, the statement said.

The announcement has been long anticipated in South Korea, which has recently welcomed a rash of Soviet films, cultural exchange programmes and new business ties. The Soviet Union backed North Korea during the bloody 1950-53 Korean war and it continues to supply arms to the North.

His first trial ended in a jury deadlock. At his second trial in 1986, he was convicted of giving his Soviet lover a secret FBI reporting guide in return for sex, money and gold.

His attorneys claim he was a bumbler trying to redeem his lacklustre career by infiltrating the KGB through Mrs Ogorodnikov, a Soviet emigre. Miller still contends that was his misguided purpose.

Mrs Ogorodnikov and her husband, Nikolay, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit espionage and are serving prison terms.

Ex-FBI agent hooked to honeybee but 'not Soviet spy'

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 8, (AP) — The only FBI agent ever convicted of espionage insists he wasn't a spy, but rather was seduced by a "charming, outgoing, vivacious" Soviet woman.

After five years in prison and reversal of his conviction, ex-FBI agent Richard Miller conceded his affair with Svetlana Ogorodnikov was "the stupidest thing I've done in my life."

But he says he never was a spy. "I love my country," Miller said. "I'm a patriotic kind of guy. ... I know in my heart I'm not a traitor."

In April, the 9th US circuit court of appeals overturned Miller's conviction on grounds the jury should not have been told Miller failed lie

detector tests.

The 32-year-old Miller, released on bail last month while he awaits a new trial, talked yesterday with a group of reporters who had sought interviews. His lawyers, Stanley Greenberg and Joel Levine, stood by to veto any questions about his planned defence. But Miller openly answered most queries.

Asked to describe the proudest moment in his FBI career, Miller thought for a few minutes, then cited a 1972 trip to Washington, when he and his family had a picture taken with then-FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover.

"That," he said, "was one of the proudest

moments."

The former agent was alternately serious and wise-cracking. He called his upcoming third trial "Miller three. It makes me feel like Rambo."

He spoke of his troubled 20-year FBI career, his extramarital affair with Mrs Ogorodnikov, his return to the Mormon faith and adjustment to life outside prison.

"In prison a person loses one of the most precious things a person can lose and that is freedom of choice. They tell you when to sleep, when to eat, when to do laundry. I'm having a difficult time adjusting to making simple

GDR arrests ex-leaders

Party to debate future

EAST BERLIN, Dec 8, (Agencies): East Germany brought corruption charges today against six disgraced former leaders, including ex-communist chief Erich Honecker, only hours before the party was to debate its future at a show-down congress.

Honecker's failing health saved him from jail, a public prosecutor's spokesman said. Four other ex-politburo members, including former Prime Minister Willi Stoph, were arrested. A fifth, Hermann Axen, was in Moscow for an eye operation.

The charges, the latest in an almost daily purging of the old communist order, came while party officials struggled to organise an emergency congress on their bleak political future.

The once omnipotent party, staggering leaderless after its politburo and central committee resigned en masse on Sunday, could be renamed, reformed or split in two at the Congress.

The 2,700-odd delegates, meeting in an East Berlin hall belonging to a sports club sponsored by the hated security police, were expected to debate through the night.

In a dramatic departure from the secretive stage management of its Stalinist days, the congress is open-ended and might even be televised live. It could drag on for days or adjourn after the first meeting and resume later next week.

The unprecedented session was to start with a report from the 25-member working group now leading the party and a speech from Hans Modrow, the communist Premier.

The party agreed during historic "round table" talks with opposition groups yesterday to hold free parliamentary elections on May 6, draft a new constitution and back the dissolution of the despised security police apparatus.

Alarmed by the power vacuum created by the party's collapse, Defence Minister Theodor Hoffmann today repeated earlier official warnings against attacks by enraged citizens on army and security police buildings.

"We fear for the safety of this republic which we are standing guard for," the ADN news agency quoted him as saying.

The Washington Post quoted US military officials as saying Moscow had put Soviet army units in East Germany on alert, apparently to safeguard Soviet bases and nuclear weapons depots from protesters.

But Soviet East German and Western diplomats said they knew nothing about this and the Westerners said they had no evidence of serious violence against officials.

The Western envoys said security officials, long used to a population cowed by fear of their awesome powers, now appeared extremely jittery as confident citizens peacefully but firmly challenged them to answer for their past deeds.

A noted communist reformer, Dresden Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer, added to the party's confusion today by brushing off suggestions he should take over as the party's next leader.

"I am ready to run for a post in



Berghofer

the leadership but I will definitely stay mayor of Dresden," he told the youth newspaper Junge Welt.

Berliner Zeitung, the newspaper of the capital's Communist Party, said the congress was the party's "last chance for renewal."

"A new party is needed," it said in an editorial. "Whether the congress can give birth to it is questionable."

"It will apparently try only to give democratic legitimacy to a new party leadership. But the people's expectations are high and are looking for more."

A western diplomat commented: "The party is slipping into oblivion... it's on its way to becoming just another group."

A spokesman for the public prosecutor said the six former leaders under investigation were charged with corruption and abuse of power to the detriment of the national economy.

Apart from Honecker, Stoph and Axen, the accused leaders were former security chief Erich Mielke and former Politburo members Guenther Kleiber and Werner Krolkowski.

Honecker, 77, who has remained in a controversial luxury compound most other leaders have since been forced to leave, was too ill to be interrogated or jailed, the spokesman said.

The official ADN news agency also reported corruption charges had been brought against Gerald Goetting, former head of the Christian Democratic Union, one of the four "satellite parties" allowed to operate alongside the communists.

East Germany yesterday asked West Berlin to extradite a fugitive East German official on fraud charges.

Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, East Germany's foreign currency chief until he fled to the West last week, vowed to fight his extradition to the highest court, although he offered to hand back 60 million marks (\$34 million) he had salted away in Swiss bank accounts.

Prisoners rioted and went on hunger strikes to press demands for a general amnesty, East German state media said yesterday.

About 15,000 inmates are eligible for release under a partial amnesty announced by the government on Wednesday, the official news agency ADN said.

The amnesty covers those serving sentences of less than three years, with the first releases set for Dec 12.

Havel may get job: Adamec quits

PRAGUE, Dec 8, (Agencies): Czechoslovakia's Prime Minister-designate Marian Calfa tried to form a new government today as opposition playwright Vaclav Havel edged closer to becoming the country's reluctant president.

The pro-democracy Civic Forum planned to nominate Havel, its leading figure, to succeed President Gustav Husak, according to a top forum source who asked not to be named.

The forum has conditionally agreed to support Calfa, 43, as premier and give him time to name an acceptable government, but is demanding that hardliner Husak resign.

Calfa was called in by Husak yesterday to form a new cabinet after the surprise resignation of Communist Premier Ladislav Adamec plunged the country into a new crisis.

Civic Forum has said it would accept Calfa, a Slovak and Communist Party member, as prime minister if a Czech with no political affiliation and enjoying the respect of the entire nation became president.

Government spokesman Marcel Jansen said Calfa had been on the phone today with other official parties and with the opposition Civic Forum. He indicated the new cabinet

might not be named today, as previously believed, but did not say when the announcement would be made.

"Let the man work," Jansen said, adding that the negotiations had produced "more names than we can use."

In announcing his resignation, Adamec said a younger man was needed to lead Czechoslovakia out of the current crisis.

Adamec had declared on national television on Wednesday night he would resign if the opposition did not stop presenting "ultimatums" and the present crisis could not be resolved.

Czechoslovakia is a federation consisting of the Czech Lands and Slovakia and the two top posts have traditionally been divided between the two nations.

Havel, who helped co-found the Charter 77 human rights movement and spent five years in prison, is regarded by many of his countrymen as a man of great moral authority well suited to be president.

"If God help us, the situation develops in such a way that the only service I could do is to do this, then of course I would do it," he said yesterday.

Another name mentioned by some forum activists for the head of state's largely ceremonial post was Jiri Hanzlik, a travel writer expelled from the party after the invasion.

A Civic Forum delegation was to meet representatives of the Com-



Marian Calfa

Forum activists for the head of state's largely ceremonial post was Jiri Hanzlik, a travel writer expelled from the party after the invasion.

A Civic Forum delegation was to meet representatives of the Com-



Havel addresses a press conference.

unist Party and its associated Socialist and People's Parties later today to discuss their request that half of the government posts be filled by individuals with no party affiliation.



Ladislav Adamec

The forum has proposed seven ministers for the new government, including Catholic activist and lawyer Jan Carnogursky as first deputy premier and forum spokesman Jiri Dienstbier as foreign minister.

Party leader Karel Urbanek said in an interview in today's communist daily Rude Pravo that the party central committee no longer represented the will of most party members.

Lithuania defies Moscow

Soviet plenum summoned to discuss changes

MOSCOW, Dec 8, (Agencies): The parliament of rebel Lithuania yesterday defied Moscow by voting to legalise a multi-party system, and the Communist Party of nearby Estonia said it would follow suit.

The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet or parliament voted 243 to one, with 39 abstentions, to dump article six of the republic's constitution which guarantees the Communist Party's leading role. Meanwhile, an urgent meeting of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee has been called in.

Deputies replaced the article with a clause allowing the existence of political parties, public organisations and movements provided they

This made it virtually certain the clause would be passed when the Estonian parliament met later this month, the journalist, Ivo Barbo, told Reuters.

Journalists said the moves by the two Baltic republics were likely to be discussed by the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee in Moscow at a plenary session.

"This issue has long been solved for all Lithuania," Deputy Romualdas Ozolas told the Lithuanian parliament, according to a local journalist present at the session. "It is only the Supreme Soviet that has not yet made the decision."

Ozolas, a communist who is also a member of the Lithuanian mass movement Sajudis, said he recognised that most of the members of the parliament were communists and hated to give up a constitutional provision granting them supremacy.

"But we should make a distinction between being a party member and being a deputy," he said.

The decision made it likely that local and republican elections in Lithuania next Feb 24 would be the first multi-party polls in the Soviet Union since 1917, when several parties fought for seats in a constituent assembly.

The Bolsheviks, who won fewer seats in that body than the Socialist Revolutionaries, dissolved the assembly by force in January, 1918.

But journalists in Estonia said local elections due there next Sunday would in effect be multi-party polls, with a number of candidates representing different parties although nominally standing as "independents."

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, while tolerating such changes in Eastern Europe, has consistently rejected introducing a multi-party system at home, although he has not flatly ruled it out for all time.

"At the present complex stage, in the interests of the consolidation of society and the concentration of all its efforts, it is essential to maintain the one-party system," Gorbachev said in an article in the Communist Party daily Pravda two weeks ago.

Soviet Communist Party leaders will meet tomorrow to prepare for next week's session of the Congress of People's Deputies, the country's top legislative body, an official spokesman said today.

"As far as we know, such a meeting will take place tomorrow. By tradition the Central Committee of the Communist Party holds such a session before a congress to discuss what is going to happen," said Vadim Perfilov, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Perfilov, speaking at a news conference, gave no specifics about the plenum's agenda.

But it seemed likely that the session would discuss calls by radical deputies for the congress to consider changing or scrapping article six of the Soviet constitution, which guarantees the Communist Party the leading role in society.

Soviet citizens are to be allowed to watch foreign television programmes and subscribe to foreign newspapers and to use photocopy machines without restrictions, Izvestia said.

Soviet troops placed on alert

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (AP): Soviet forces in East Germany have been put on a raised state of readiness, but US military officials say it's just to protect their bases and nuclear weapons there, a newspaper reported today.

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified US military officials, reported that the Soviet move was not seen as a prelude to some kind of intervention in response to the political turmoil in East Germany.

"We think this is probably a benign development," the Post quoted a senior US military official as saying. "They're worried about their own forces (in the midst of this turmoil) and rightly so."

"The Soviets are basically going into a bastion mode," the official said.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State James A. Baker III told the newspaper in an interview that the Soviet Union has pledged to the United States since last summer that it will not intervene militarily to block the fast-paced changes in Eastern Europe.

"They have been very, very firm with us," Baker was quoted as saying.

He said the Soviets had told the United States "they would not use force in Eastern Europe, to do so would mean that perestroika has failed."

Such assurances were first conveyed by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in a meeting in Paris last July 29, Baker said. This was before the entry of the Solidarity Union Movement into the government of Poland and the massive exodus of people from East Germany.

The Soviets have used troops to suppress change in the region before, in East Berlin in 1953, Hungary in 1956 and, with their Warsaw Pact allies, in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Protesters attack Lenin monument

KRAKOW, Poland, Dec 8, (AP): Protesters hurled paint and gasoline on a Lenin monument and set it afire last week before clashing with police, who responded with force to break up the second anti-Soviet disturbance in a week, the official Pape news agency reported.

The demonstrations have left the Solidarity-led government in the uncomfortable position of having to defend the monument in Nowa Huta, a community built in the 1950s as a model Socialist industrial city.

Several hundred young people attacked the statue in the late afternoon Wednesday, creating a fire that was fuelled with benches from nearby parks, Pape said.

The demonstrators chanted "down with the communists (communists) and 'Soviets go home' and then moved to a militia station in a housing district, the agency said.

Kremlin's deviation criticised Gorby is replaceable

BUDAPEST, Dec 8, (Reuters): A hardline Soviet opponent of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms has accused the Kremlin leader of deviating from Leninist principles and said he was replaceable.

Nina Andreyeva, a Leningrad schoolteacher, helped stall Gorbachev's reforms for three weeks last year after attacking them in a letter to a newspaper.

In a full page interview published by the Hungarian daily Magyar Hirlap today, she also accused "Zionists" of pushing for power in the Soviet Union and said reformers were trying to restore capitalism.

"It is well known that nobody is irreplaceable," she said.

"If the necessity of Gorbachev's dismissal arises, there will be appropriate candidates in the central committee to replace him," Magyar Hirlap quoted her as saying.

Mitterrand cautious German unity

KIEV, USSR, Dec 8, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand, ending whirlwind talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, sounded a note of caution over the possibility of German reunification, saying West Germany must be more firmly anchored to its European partners.

"The evolution of the East must lead the West toward its own structures," said Mitterrand, who flew to the Ukrainian capital for a six-hour working visit and talks with the Soviet president.

The two leaders met for the fifth time to trade views on the political changes sweeping Eastern Europe. Gorbachev also was expected to report on his two-day Malta Summit with US President George Bush.

Gorbachev told a joint news conference at Kiev's Hall of Unions that he and Mitterrand had a "substantial discussion" on the future of Germany,

divided into two nations following the Nazi defeat in World War II.

Gorbachev on Tuesday told visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Moscow that the Soviet Union regards East Germany as a "faithful ally, important guarantor of peace and stability in Europe."

On Wednesday, he said Mitterrand's visit had not changed his views.

The Soviet position has been that the existence of two Germanys has provided an element of stability in Europe for more than 40 years, and Gorbachev reiterated that stance.

"Any artificial prodding and pushing of this question (German reunification) could only make the processes taking place more difficult," said Gorbachev, referring to the dramatic warning of relations between East and West.

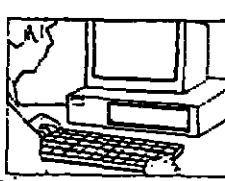
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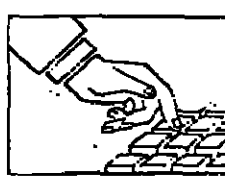
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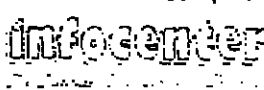
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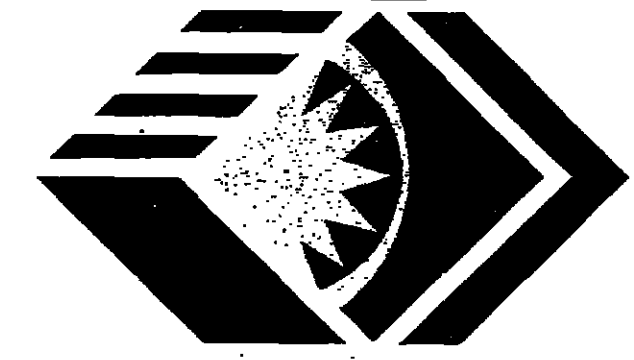
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KUWAIT ... GULF

Premier expresses concern on social issues

Impact of maids discussed at HPC

KUWAIT, Dec 8, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah has expressed profound concern over social issues with special emphasis on phenomena associated with youth and the coming generations and their impact on the Kuwaiti community.

The remarks of Sheikh Saad were made today at the regular meeting of the Higher Planning Council.

The council's Secretary-General Fuad

Abdul Rahman Mula Hussein said in a press statement that at the outset the meeting took note of resolutions issued by the council of ministers in relation to decisions taken by the council in its previous session.

He said the chairman of the General Policies Committee Abdul Razaq Khaled Zaid Al Khaled presented two memorandums containing remarks on the abidance by government bodies to regulations set forth in the development plan. He said the two memos urged boosting management

development efforts.

Khaled said the council further discussed a report by the Social Services Committee on the issue of maids and their negative impact on the Kuwaiti community. He said the committee presented some proposals tackling the issue with the aim of limiting its effects.

Dr Mohammed Al Sabah, chairman of the Economic Committee submitted a report on the role of the private sector on providing housing care to citizens.

Khaled said the council endorsed all the memos presented to it by its committees.

Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi briefed the council on the recent Opec meeting with special emphasis on its decisions to raise Kuwait's production quota.

Central Bank's Governor briefed the council on the report of the joint economic committee on activation of the economy. The council has decided to hold its next meeting on Jan 7.

AEUC budget

Kuwait expresses reservation

AMMAN, Dec 8, (Kuna): Kuwait's delegation to the Arab Economic Unity Council expressed reservations on the council's decision relating to the share it has to pay in the council's budget.

Member of the Kuwaiti delegation to the AEUC Khalid Al Sabah told Kuna here yesterday that Kuwait is keen on supporting all Arab economic institutions but it simultaneously wants just and fair distribution of payment shares in the council's budget.

Kuwait registered its reservation on the ratio of its current contribution which amounts to 3.73 per cent and on the new proposal which is based on payment of 25 per cent equally and 75 per cent on the basis of the current contribution ratio, he said.

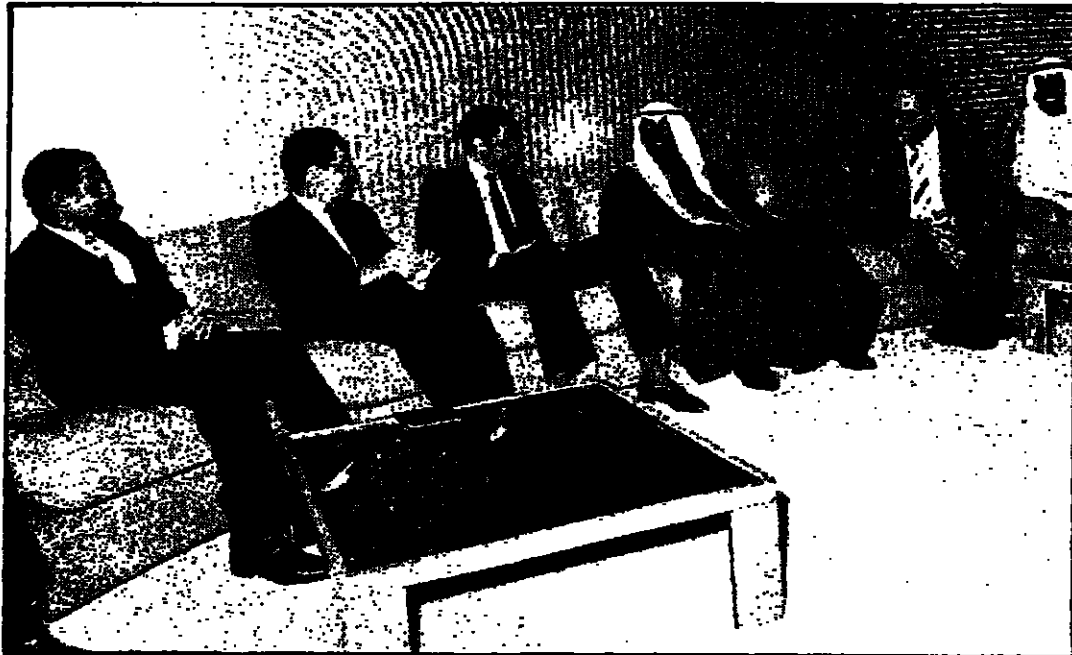
He noted that Kuwait has shouldered the largest share in the council's budget and the proposed ratio would also put the biggest burden on Kuwait.

Revealing said Kuwait's delegation to the current session believes that its country's share must not exceed 13.7 per cent, which is equivalent to Kuwait's contribution ratio in the Arab League's budget.

Indian exams

A PRESS release from the Indian Embassy in Kuwait has stated that the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers (IETE) Diploma Examination will be held at Indian Embassy premises on 13.12.89 at 11.30 hrs. Concerned candidates are requested to contact the embassy well in time.

The All India Institute of Management Association's Diploma Examination will also be held at Indian Embassy premises with effect from 14th Dec 1989 at 07.00 hrs and 11.30 hrs. Concerned candidates are requested to contact the embassy well in time.



Premier receives Mauritanian minister

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah Wednesday received at cabinet headquarters Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania N'Diaye Kane, on the occasion of his visit to the country.

The meeting was attended by Planning Minister and Acting Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Kuwait's Ambassador to Mauritania Abdullah Al Majid and Mauritanian Ambassador to Kuwait.

Three-year KU study

Females more prone to suicidal attempts

ALTHOUGH males in Kuwait outnumber females, 96 per cent of suicidal attempts are committed by females, according to Dr Mohammed Sulaiman, professor at the Faculty of Medicine at Kuwait University.

A three-year study conducted by Kuwait University has been divided into two stages. The first related to the study of social, psychological and clinical characteristics of those who attempt suicide, the second is a follow-up of these cases to ascertain improvement and that they are conforming to family norms.

Speaking at a seminar organised by Field Training Students at Kuwait University on the theme of suicide, Sulaiman said that the ages of those attempting suicide ranged between 14-46 years of age. Females who attempted suicide were younger in age than males.

Depression

The relevant study was conducted at one of Kuwait's hospitals and covered different subjects. Results indicated that about 15 per cent suffered from depression and ended their lives by suicide. Results revealed that 87 per cent committed

suicide by taking overdoses of medicine and drugs, 6.5 per cent had stabbed themselves with sharp instruments, and a similar percentage had jumped from great heights to their death. The study indicated that deaths by suicide represented one per cent of all deaths in Kuwait.

The reasons for suicide had, as listed as follows: problems, work related problems, monetary problems, drug related problems and marriage failure. On basis of nationality, 23.8 per cent accounted for citizens 52.2 per cent Arabs and 8.5 per cent resident expatriates. Most cases did not suffer from acute psychiatric problems — 25 per cent cases related to dependency and 18 per cent to split personality.

However, the study indicated that 69 per cent of suicide attempts by males were successful as opposed to 26 per cent in females — though females tended towards suicide in greater numbers.

The study called for intensifying awareness programmes to be devoted to families in addition to imparting training to these families on methods to deal with family members who displayed suicidal tendencies and immediately referring serious cases to competent authorities, doctors, and sociologists.

Kuwait reiterates support to intifada

KUWAIT, Dec 8, (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah today reiterated that Kuwait would continue supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people and its uprising till it realises the national objectives and restores its inalienable rights topped by the right to self-determination and establishment of its own independent state on its soil.

In a press statement marking the (Dec 8) third anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, Sheikh Jaber said His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah in his capacity as chairman of the Fifth Islamic Summit had paid special concern to explain the dimensions of the struggle of the Palestinian people in all international fora.

He said the resolutions of the summit, held here under the chairmanship of the Amir, were a prelude to rally wide support to the Palestinian cause and paved the way for proclamation of the independent Palestinian state by the Palestine National Council.

Address

The minister recalled excerpts of the historic address by the Amir at the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly in September 1988 in which he noted that the Palestinians were "defending their land on their land and did not go out to fight anyone".

The Palestinian uprising is the expression of a long-standing demand for an independent state on its land with Holy Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Sheikh Jaber said Kuwait was among the first states to recognise the independent Palestinian state and that it would spare no effort in defending the Palestinian and Arab rights.

Lauding the bravery of the Palestinian people in resisting occupation to liberate their homeland, the minister condemned the brutal and inhuman practices of the Zionist entity against the just demands of the Palestinian people.

He called for comprehensive Arab support in the interest of the intifada to enable it achieve its national goals, saying "in such circumstances all Arab efforts should pour in a unified Arab plan to defend the rights of the Arab, their future and their high interests."

Traffic accidents

SCATTERED areas in the country witnessed 19 traffic accidents. Ten were reported in the Capital, two in Hawalli, four in Ahmadi and three in Jahra.

Twelve persons were injured in the accidents.

Marine cities will help solve housing problem

Projects will succeed, say ministers

THE concept of building marine cities as adopted by the Kuwait Pearl Company is a good example of co-operation between the private and public sectors, according to a number of Kuwaiti ministers and officials. They went on to state that these cities will solve some of the housing problems and contribute towards reducing the waiting time for applicants to receive their chalets and hoped that the project will be executed shortly.

Speaking on the issue, Jassem Al Khorafi, minister of finance said that the Kuwait Pearl Project is pioneer in its field and aims at beautifying Kuwait's coast, and "simultaneously providing excellent accommodation and recreation facilities to its citizens."

The vital aspect and most significant is the fact that the project vividly demonstrates the contribution of the private sector towards government projects and is indication of a leading example of co-operation between the two sectors. He praised the people who adopted the projects, specially Khaled Yousef Al Marzouk.

Channels

Also speaking on the subject, Naser Al Roudhan said that this initiative will help government in solving the housing problem. He

added that it is obvious that the National Housing Authority should not be the sole body who should be left to shoulder the responsibility of solving the housing problem of citizens.

Roudhan said that there should be new channels to offer the housing services which have been in recent years on the rise. This project is ideal, the minister said as it addresses the problem of a limited geographical area for building houses for its citizens.

Faisal Al Khaled, minister of commerce and industry said that he was a staunch supporter of the concept when it was originally submitted. He commended the owners of the project for their comprehensive studies on the project — specially from the economical, social and technical aspects. He also said that it vividly demonstrates the private sectors acumen and abilities or solve the housing problem. He believed that the project will be successful and more such projects will be carried out in the future. He said that he hoped the celebrations to start the project in the Shuwaikh area would be carried out shortly.

Meanwhile, Dr Ibrahim Al Shaheen, director-general of the National Housing Authority, described the pearls project as a pioneer one in the architectural

development of Kuwait. He added that the projects will have positive effects on the architectural development in the state.

He commented: "We are witnessing a new experiment in architectural development in the sea." However, he cautioned that though the project is vital, marine environment and sea creatures should be protected and pollution should be given top priority.

On the other hand, the owner of one of the two foreign companies that were awarded the Kuwait Pearl Project said that the project will facilitate a large number of citizens being provided with their required accommodations.

John Gerdy, the owner of the company said that he is proud that the designs made by his company won first place and added that there is no doubt that the project of marine cities is a feather in the cap of his designing branch — though his firm had made many designs for grand projects in several countries of the world.

The owner of the other winning company — Philip Cox from Australia said that he felt honoured that his company was selected by the committee of seven local and international arbitrators.

Poor packaging affects 40pc production

THE packaging industry in the Arab countries is still undeveloped despite the availability of quality packaging materials, an economic study made by the Measures and Specifications Authority of the GCC states has indicated.

The study went on to indicate that as a direct result of bad packing, Arab consumers ultimately ended up taking home items that if not in a damaged condition, were not in a prime condition either. This reflected detrimentally on a minimum of 40 per cent of total production, the study added.

The importance of proper and hygienic packing

cannot be underestimated, the study said and added that it is considered to be a vital element in marketing goods — either locally or at external markets.

The study indicated that heightened concern arose in the packing industry in Arab states recently when problems of import or raw materials and shortage of experienced manpower began appearing on the scene. This resulted in the Arab states to agree to establish in 1986, the Arab Centre for Packing so as to develop the packing industry in the Arab world by training Arab technicians to face this shortage in the industry.



Dinner hosted

Hassan Mohammed Rajeh, ex-director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry hosted a dinner for a number of ambassadors and their wives. Picture shows the host (third left) with his guests.

Emirates hosts air safety conference

A MAJOR conference on aircraft safety, which is being hosted by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, gets under way in Dubai today.

The three-day conference at the Dubai Hyatt Regency Hotel is being attended by the Arab world's leading airlines, which are members of the Arab Carriers Organisation (AAO), and aircraft manufacturers from around the world.

Top of the 15-point agenda is the global problem of aircraft ageing and new solutions to make flying even safer.

"We are delighted to be hosting this major conference, which is being held in Dubai for the first time," said Emirates deputy general manager (engineering), Ahmed Al Mulla.

"The safety record of AAO members is outstanding, but we must be vigilant at all times because safety is paramount. On aircraft ageing, for instance, there has been several incidents in other parts of the world and the conference will be discussing ways to tighten safety procedures even further," he added.

Thirteen airlines from all over the Arab world are due to attend the conference. And experts from the world's aircraft, engine and avionics manufacturers will be telling AAO members about the latest innovations which can help airlines become more efficient and safer.

New developments, such as a traffic collision avoidance system, satellite communications and a windshear warning device to alert pilots about hazardous air currents will also be discussed at the conference.



Al Hambra nominated best restaurant 1989

In the second Business Travel Poll conducted by Meed, readers voted the Al Hambra Restaurant at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel as their favourite restaurant on the basis of quality food, service and value for money. This coveted award was won by Al Hambra based on a questionnaire distributed to approximately 530 readers from 35 countries including most Arab states and were returned to Meed House where the totals were aggregated to seek the best overall.

Voting for the Al Hambra came with the choosing of Kuwait Sheraton as the best hotel in Kuwait by the readers of the same magazine.

The awards were distributed at the Business Travel Award Ceremony held at Dubai at the beginning of November and was attended by Holger Wessel, general manager of the Kuwait Sheraton.

KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)

AHMADI - KUWAIT

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An excellent benefits package includes 42 days paid annual leave, annual return airfares, housing at nominal rent, free dental and medical care and excellent recreational facilities.

Interested applicants are requested to apply within two weeks from the date of this advertisement with full resume, passport copy, copies of educational and experience certificates and 3 photographs, copy of Civil ID card and a telephone number to the following address:-

THE SUPDT. EMPLOYMENT DIVISION
KUWAIT OIL COMPANY (K.S.C.)
61008, AHMADI, KUWAIT.

Khalid returns

KUWAIT, Dec 8, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Al Khalid and the accompanying delegation yesterday returned here from Baghdad where he opened the Kuwaiti Commercial Week.

In an arrival statement to Kuna, Khalid said he has conveyed a message from His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah to Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan.

Khalid said the Kuwaiti Commercial Week in Baghdad displayed products and services of 97 companies.

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KUWAIT UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF ENG. & PETROLEUM

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Civil Engineering of Kuwait University is pleased to invite researchers and engineers to a lecture entitled:

"Strength and Stability of Fluid-Filled, Circular Cylindrical, Thin-Walled, Steel Ducts."

Speaker: Visiting Prof. A.N. Sherbourne
(Univ. of Waterloo-Canada)
Civil Engineering Department
Kuwait University

Date: Sunday 10/12/1989

Time: 12:30 pm

Place: Conference Room, Bldg. 5kh, 2nd floor, Khaldiya.

New communication tower to cost over KD24 m

Expansion in services until 2005

THE assistant undersecretary for technical affairs at the Ministry of Communication Salman Al Roumi has said that the new telecommunication building and tower will cost KD24,708,000, which covered the construction cost of the building and related basic services, such as main and standby power supply systems, diesel-operated generators, A/C systems, and emergency, security and safety gear.

He told a local daily that the new building was expected to be used for the development and expansion of the

telecommunications services in the city of Kuwait and other related central services till after the year 2005.

He said that the ministry had introduced a number of projects into its next five-year plan 90/95, which included the equipping of the new central building and tower and the transfer of equipment from the old to the new buildings which would cost around KD2 million.

He added that work was scheduled for completion in December 1992, and that other projects included the replacement of equipment in the old central building

at the cost of KD2.5 million which is scheduled for completion in December 1994.

The Integrated-System Digital Network (ISDN) was an experimental project which cost reached KD500,000 and the completion date was June 1993, Roumi said.

He added that the new building was part of the telecommunications complex project which combined this building, a public service building, parking lot, joint service basement and adjoining buildings.

Roumi said the main theme of the project was to develop and diversify the telecommunications services for subscribers in all areas in the country. He added that the tower would be used for communications by satellite and with ships and vessels passing through the country's territorial or international waters.

He said that the communication by satellite systems were currently located in ground stations at Um Al Aish area, which was considered the relay station for all international networks, besides

the mobile station at the ministry.

The stations were linked to the local networks via the international central located in the existing telecommunications building, and that a new telecommunication connection would be fitted between the ground stations and the central building on the new telecommunications tower.

The same connection would serve to link the central building to the Umm Al Aish coastal ground station for communication with ships and vessels via satellites.

Bankers praise reactivation plan

Call for serious perusal

THE chairman of the Bank of Kuwait and Middle East Ali Rashed Al Bader described the report on the national economy reactivation plan as comprehensive.

In an interview with a local daily, the official was quoted as saying that the pertinent report had included realistic and appropriate recommendations of major problems.

The most important of these recommendations dealt with the debt settlement in view of its importance to the local banking sector, the official said. He praised the proposals relating to the developing and upgrading of the stock exchange market.

Bader called for serious perusal and follow-up to implement and co-ordinate the relevant resolutions and recommendations, adding that co-operation between the government and the private sector was essential for achieving necessary goals. He clarified that this co-operation could be effective through the forming of permanent economic advisory council.

Meanwhile, the daily in its efforts to monitor the local bankers' reactions, interviewed the deputy chairman and managing director of Al Ahli Bank Abdus-

salam Al Awadi who confirmed that recommendations contained in the Joint Economic Committee report were obviously embodying HH the Amir's and HH the Crown Prince and Premier's concern towards the imperative need for pushing forward the economic wheel.

In this connection Awadi said: "I am optimistic that the relevant recommendations have crowned the continued efforts exerted by the state to contain the passive affects of the stock market crisis which erupted in the early 1980s."

He added that the recommendations contained most of the necessary elements required for reactivating the national economy including the settlement of difficult debts and banking facilities and described these proposals as effective.

The relevant report highlighted the role of the private sector towards reactivation of the national economy which constitutes a positive sign aimed at creating an appropriate atmosphere.

The forthcoming stage will witness qualitative economic activation in different sectors, Awadi said.



Radha and Raja skillfully seductive

Reddys exhibit superb dance skills at IAC

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

INDIAN Kuchipudi dancers Raja and Radha Reddy Thursday danced their way into the hearts of the audience with their skillfully seductive performance. It was simply an outstanding display of highly demanding techniques.

The three-day recital was opened at the Indian Arts Circle by Indian Ambassador Arun Budhiraja with a short, sweet speech. Sadly, other speakers failed to take the cue from him.

Raja and Radha's recital was a fitting introduction to Kuchipudi, danced for the first time on the Kuwait stage by highly professional, disciplined dancers.

To make the audience appreciate their style, the dancers first introduced each item, explaining the various gestures, movement and rhythm. This greatly helped in understanding the dance form, which originated in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh between the sixth and the 10th century.

An expressive dance form, its highlights include changing facial expression with dancers emoting various emotions, varying from fury to compassion. The dancer is at once an actor, a mime artist and a seducer, changing colours like a chameleon to suit the character he or she portrays in dance dramas, one of the characteristics of Kuchipudi.

Kuchipudi's seductive structure came through in a particularly beautiful solo number danced by Radha Reddy. Entitled "Krishna Shabdham," it told the story of a woman's pining for her beloved. And when she sees him come, she attracts him, trying to win his love, with her seductive charms. Radha's mastery of the art form coupled with her skillful interpretation infused warmth into the performance.

3 killed in Oman floods

NICOSIA, Dec 8, (Reuters): Floods caused by three days of torrential rains killed at least three people in Oman today and swept away cars and palm trees, the Omani news agency said.

The agency said another two people were missing, presumed dead, after their car was swept away.

KD20,000 fine for liquor smugglers

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to five years in jail and another to three and a half years in addition to a joint customs fine of KD20,000 after convicting them of smuggling liquor by sea for trading purposes.

Securitymen managed to arrest the two suspects after they smuggled 224 cartons of whisky bottles in a cruiser. The contraband was hidden in an abandoned ship owned by the KOC, located close to Qarweh Island.

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours sentenced two engineers and a foreman to three months imprisonment.

However, the court gave them the option of suspending the implementation on payment of KD50 each as bail.

The sentences were passed for inadvertently causing the death of a worker and injuries to three others involved in repairing the roof of the ceiling of the cafeteria of the Faculty of Science at Kuwait University.

The court was told that the report of the municipality indicated that a previous study was not undertaken to determine the effect of adding more load to the roof although it was built 20 years ago.

The report further added that the engineers of the university's engineering department were absent during the time of the accident, although they were supposed to supervise the work. The roof collapsed because workers piled the bricks onto one place on the roof which was weak, the report concluded.

KUWAIT'S Court of Higher Appeal overruled the sentence issued by the Criminal Court of four years in jail to be followed by deportation from the country on an accused for stabbing a co-worker.

The Court of Higher Appeal was told by the accused's employer that the defendant was of good behaviour, while the victim was ill tempered. The court in studying relevant medical report of the victim had ascertained that the injuries claimed by the victim dated back to over 30 days and additionally these were never reported to the police station.

The court in acquitting the defendant, primarily based its decision on the fact that the medical reports had declared the alleged casualties as highly questionable.

SECURITY forces of the Hawalli Governorate arrested

UMO charity

THE United Malayalee Organisation (UMO), a joint forum of ten member Malayalee organisations has stated in a press release about the new charity venture undertaken by them to extend financial aid to brilliant students with poor financial background in Kerala, India for the purpose of their education. The special committee constituted for the task is evaluating about eight hundred applications so far received from various districts in Kerala.

The financial aid will be channelised after a panel is arranged by the committee. Main consideration given to arrange the panel on priority basis for the candidates are the marks scored in the last examination attended, disability of the candidate, orphan, economic problem and the family income. The UMO will co-ordinate public support and goodwill after the panel is completed by identifying a team of deserving candidates.

The scheme aims to find sponsors for appropriate candidates in support for a minimum of one academic course and to open a network of relationships between the less fortunate and affluent of the community in Kuwait and in Kerala.

This scheme is a continuation of UMO's scholarship venture implemented in the year 1987. During 1987 more than 400 students were awarded with humptum scholarships.

four juveniles on charges of breaking into a school canteen and stealing the contents. The juveniles have been referred to competent authorities for investigation.

SECURITY forces of the same governorate arrested one Kuwaiti, three Jordanians and one Egyptian on charges of breaking-in and stealing.

The suspects were apprehended on a complaint filed by the Bangladeshi resident to the Salmiya Police Station.

The three Jordanians and the Egyptian have denied their involvement and investigations are under progress.

KUWAIT'S Court of Misdemeanours sentenced a man to two months imprisonment with hard labour for assaulting the headmistress of a girls school with a knife.

The court was told that the convict who was working as a "farash" in a girls school had a dispute with the headmistress and attacked the victim with a knife. The victim escaped from the attack and was chased by the convict who then kicked her several times and then tried to assault her with a hammer.

Action Line

I WOULD like to know the charges for overseas phone calls, per minute. I would also like to know if the charges differ for different countries.

I would also like to know if there are any public libraries in Kuwait, where one can borrow English-language books.

Fernandes

THE British Council, Mansouriya, is one place where you can find English-language books. The library is open to members. A member can borrow up to four books at a time. The library facilities can also be used by members. The British Council also has a video library and a section for computer enthusiasts.

The overseas charges for peak hours (7am to 7pm) are slightly higher than the off-peak charges. On Fridays and holidays, the off-peak charges apply. The overseas charges, per minute, revised in December, 1988, for various countries are as follows:

Country	Peak Hours 7am to 7pm	Off-peak 7pm to 7am
Jordan	400 fils	350 fils
UAE	300	210
Bahrain	300	210
Tunis	550	450
Algeria	550	450
Saudi Arabia	300	210
Sudan	800	650
Syria	400	350
Somalia	800	650
Iraq	350	250
Oman	300	210
Qatar	300	210
Lebanon	600	550
Libya	550	450
Egypt	700	650
Morocco	800	650
Mauritania	550	450
North Yemen	700	650
South Yemen	400	350
Afghanistan	950	800
Indonesia	1,000	900
Iran	400	350
Pakistan	600	550
Brunei	950	800
Bangladesh	600	550
Burma	1,000	850
Thailand	950	800
Taiwan	1,000	850
Singapore	950	800
Sri Lanka	950	800
China	1,000	900
Vietnam	1,250	1,150
Philippines	1,000	850
Cambodia	1,250	1,150
North Korea	1,100	1,000
Malaysia	800	700
Nepal	950	800
India	600	550
Hong Kong	800	700
Japan	900	850
Australia	800	700
Soviet Union	1,100	1,000
Spain	800	700
E. & W. Germany	800	700
United Kingdom	800	700
Ireland	800	700
Italy	800	700
Belgium	800	700
Bulgaria	800	700
Poland	800	700
Czechoslovakia	800	700
Turkey	700	600
Denmark	1,100	1,000
Sweden	1,100	1,000
Switzerland	800	700
France	1,100	1,000
Finland	1,100	1,000
Cyprus	800	700
Netherlands	800	700
Hungary	1,100	1,000
Yugoslavia	1,100	950
Greece	800	700
Ethiopia	1,300	1,200
Tanzania	1,000	900
Zaire	1,300	1,200
Zambia	1,000	850
Zimbabwe	1,000	850
Ghana	1,300	1,200
Kenya	1,100	950
Brazil	1,100	1,000
Canada	800	650
Mexico	1,300	1,200
USA	550	450

WHAT is the maximum age permitted for a child to be included in a mother's passport - 12 years or 18 years?

Elaine Valerie.

YOU did not indicate the nationality. This depends on the rules of your country. For example, Indian passport holders can have a child's name in a mother's passport until the age of 15.

I'M a Filipino and have been working here for more than three years. Last October I had an argument with my employer, who asked me to look for another job and stop working for them. With permission from my employer's husband, who allowed me to stay in the house till I found another job, I found employment within four days. To my surprise, my employer asked the new couple to pay them KD200, the cost of my plane ticket which they paid for my vacation.

Recently, my employer asked me to resume work and pay them KD200. If I did this, I'll be free to work elsewhere. I earn only KD40 per month, and do the entire household chores. I have to work from 4 am in the morning to complete the chores. I asked for a salary increase, which she refused. Previously, they employed two more servants, each earning KD45 per month. Now I do three people's job, earning a lower salary. Please advise me.

Filipina.

THE best thing for you would be to find an employer who can pay KD200 to your present employer. You can make an agreement for a higher salary with your new employer to deduct the sum from your salary each month. If this is not possible, it would be advisable to talk to your present employer to reduce this amount. Your plight is not uncommon. Most housemaids work in big homes and have to do a lot of work.

ON June 4, 1989, I sent a demand draft and a parcel to my family. Until now, they have not received it. I don't know why my mail was delayed. Can you help me with my problem and give good results.

Sarajini Williams.

DID you register the letter? If you did, the post office must have given you a receipt. Take this receipt to the post office and ask them to locate your letter. It will take some time to find where your letter has gone but the post office authorities should look into the matter.

If you sent the letter by ordinary mail, it would be difficult to trace it. When you sent the parcel, you must have been given a receipt. With the receipt, you can trace the whereabouts of the parcel. You'll need to spend some time in the post office, but if you pursue, officials there will help you out.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait or Fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

Finnish National Day

The Finnish Ambassador to Kuwait, Tero Lehtovaara, last week hosted a reception to celebrate his country's national day. A large number of ambassadors and senior Kuwaiti officials attended the reception, held at the SAS Hotel. Picture shows Lehtovaara receiving Soviet Ambassador Ernest Zverev.

Price stability main aim of Co-op Union

PROVIDING protection to consumers in quality and prices of goods purchased from co-operative societies, is the main aim of the Union of Co-operative Societies, Jaber Al Dihani, head of the prices committee at the union said.

Any hike in prices of commodities sold at the co-operative societies and their branches cannot be approved by the committee except after being studied and after taking a series of procedures to ensure that the hike is necessary and based on external factors beyond the control of local importers.

The union does its best to maintain stability in prices of commodities for extended periods of time besides unifying prices, Dihani said.

However, the official said that in many cases the hike in prices of items at the co-operatives is

caused by the exporters at the country of origin due to the increase in prices of raw materials, packing or wages of manpower.

Additionally, increase in prices is also related to the increase in the cost of shipping and insurance as well as an increase in price of currencies in the exporting countries in relation to the Kuwaiti dinar.

Dihani went on to explain that any importer who desired to increase prices of any commodity sold at the co-operative societies should submit documents, specially bills of the last two shipments including the customs manifest. Reducing prices should be initiated by a letter which should be valid for six months, including a pledge to provide all co-operative societies with the required quantities of the reduced item for at least six months.

GCC cultural attaches meet

PARIS, Dec 8, (Kuna): Cultural attaches of the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, posted in Paris, held their first meeting here, today, to discuss means of promoting cultural co-operation between the GCC and France. It was announced here by the Kuwaiti Cultural Attaché, Abdullah Al Baijan.

The six member countries of the GCC are Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Saudi Arabia.

Since Bahrain is the current chairman of the GCC, the meeting, held in the premises of the embassy of the State of Kuwait, was chaired by the official in charge of the cultural bureau at the Embassy of Bahrain, Abdul Nabi Mussayeb, he said.

KIH to become Emirates' associate

THE 400-roomed Kuwait International Hotel has become an associate hotel of Emirates, the award winning international airline of the UAE. The agreement came into effect on December 1.

An Emirates' spokesman said the hotel, which is sited just 3 km outside of the city centre in the heart of the government sector, was chosen because it offered the high standards and elite atmosphere expected by the airline's passengers.

The Kuwait International is one of the state's leading business hotels with conference facilities for 700, a fully-equipped business centre and an executive floor with a special check-in lounge.

Emirates, an award-winning airline, currently operates four flights a week between Dubai and Kuwait every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Two more flights are to be introduced at the turn of the year.

Kuwait became the airline's 15th destination when the route was launched in July. The additional Dubai-Kuwait services, planned for January, will raise the airline's number of flights per week to 136.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE common curse of mankind: folly and ignorance —
William Shakespeare, English playwright (1564-1616).

China's old guard destroyed hopes

BEIJING, (Reuters): Defending the revolution they launched 40 years ago, China's old guard communists destroyed hopes for the future of millions of people in a single night.

No remorse has been shown by the ruling hardliners for the army's onslaught on June 3 which cost the lives of probably more than a thousand workers and students in Beijing.

"The correctness of the action will become much clearer when viewed several years hence," said Premier Li Peng, summing up a night of terror.

But the young who are trying to leave China in droves say there is no future.

For those actively involved in the seven weeks of mass pro-democracy and anti-government demonstrations from April to June, the 1990s will begin with uncertainty. So unpredictable is China's outlook that a leading government think-tank which forecasts the future based on present trends in society said it could not grant an interview.

"I spent 10 years in the countryside in the Cultural Revolution," said an intellectual who has been forced to write reams of "self-criticisms" and expects his investigation to be over in January.

"Perhaps I will have to spend three more years there. Surely it couldn't be more?"

Comparisons with the decade-long radical movement launched by Mao Tse-tung in 1966 are inevitable — as then China's long-suffering intellectuals now take the brunt of persecution and discrimination.

A teacher said she was born in 1963. It was a special year for her father who was sent to a labour camp on the border with the Soviet Union in 1957 at the start of Mao's "anti-rightists" campaign. Emerging briefly six years later, he was reunited with his wife only to be bundled back to do labour during the Cultural Revolution.

"I earn 100 yuan (\$27) a month. It's not even enough to live on. I've been accepted by an American university. I'll go as soon as I can find a sponsor," the daughter said.

"We call these times the dark ages," she went on.

"No these are grey days," interjected a friend, a writer often on the wrong side of the authorities. "Nothing has any character any more. China's leaders have no character. It's all just grey."

Grey it may be, but the government has succeeded in reasserting its authority. First-year university students are spending up to a year of military training before they begin their studies. Many of those who have graduated since 1985 are being reassigned to factories and rural areas for "grass-roots" training. Newspapers once more toe the official line, now dictated by recently promoted politburo member Li Ruihuan, a former carpenter.

A successful opera singer complained that she now had to turn talents to singing "without the Communist Party there would be no new China." "Actually I like the tune," she said. "But you can imagine my heart's not in it."

Dissident students say they see no immediate prospect of renewed anti-government protests. Suspicion pervades campuses with people under immense pressure to betray each other.

"After what happened in June? No, there can be no more demonstrations. The most we hope for is a coup within the party and the emergence of an enlightened leader," said a teacher.

"Communism will claim certain victory," the headline daily proclaimed recently, reacting to changes sweeping Eastern Europe which have left many Chinese stunned and even more aware of what they lost in June.

Public statements by officials abound in a revamped cold war language.

"China's political situation has rapidly stabilised but domestic and foreign hostile forces have not stopped their conspiratorial activities in an endeavour to overthrow the Communist Party leadership," warned Public Security Minister Wang Fang recently.

"There are still many factors that might cause instability in society," Wang told a national meeting on public order.

At the start of the 1980s, China trumpeted the "four modernisations" and individual wealth leading to collective prosperity. Ten years later the stress is on "austerity" and a long-term struggle against "bourgeois liberalisations," party jargon for Western political ideas.

But some older intellectuals in Beijing who have seen cycles of repression and liberalisation since the 1949 revolution are more optimistic than the young. It seems.

"If a slave knows nothing different he will remain a slave," a university professor said. "But once a slave tastes freedom he will never be content. He can never be put behind bars again. And in the 1980s China enjoyed freedom — that is by Chinese standards."

"China will return to a more liberal period again. Perhaps by the end of the 1990s," the professor predicted.

Just as Mao's Great Leap Forward Movement in 1958 and the Cultural Revolution were later officially repudiated, so some people believe that in the 1990s a new government will "reverse the verdict" on the democracy movement, branded now as a "counter-revolutionary rebellion."

For China's masses, the 1980s were a time of unparalleled freedom and opportunities. Tens of thousands of young people went abroad to study. Millions set up private business — from shoe-shiners to factory owners. People were allowed to own property again, some even were returned home confiscated by the authorities after the revolution. Incomes rose dramatically.

But in came also the "flies through the window" as paramount leader Deng Xiaoping once described the unwelcome, but as he then saw it, unstoppable influences from the West.

When Deng emerged in 1977 from his second spell in political exile, he was treated by the people as a returning hero who would launch a new era.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1625 — England and united provinces agree to subsidize Denmark's King Christian IV in his campaign against Germany.

1798 — Charles Emmanuel of Sardinia abdicates.

1824 — Spain's Army is defeated at Ayacucho, Peru, by Simon Bolivar's forces.

1905 — Separation of Church and state in France is decreed.

1932 — Japanese troops invade Jehol.

1934 — Ethiopian and Italian troops clash on border between Italian Somaliland and Ethiopia.

1940 — British 8th Army opens offensive in North Africa in World War II.

1946 — Indian constituent assembly is boycotted by Muslim League.

1962 — Tanganyika becomes republic within British Commonwealth.

1972 — North Vietnam and Soviet Union conclude agreement for economic and military aid to Hanoi.

1975 — Death toll is put at 160 in two days as war between Muslims and Christians rages in Beirut, Lebanon.

1976 — UN General Assembly calls for Middle East peace conference at Geneva, Switzerland, with Palestine Liberation Organisation taking part.

1985 — United Nations adopts unanimously a resolution condemning all acts of terrorism as criminal.

1986 — Soviet Union and Iran hold their first high-level economic talks since 1979 Islamic revolution.

1987 — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meets with US President Ronald Reagan in Washington a day after the US-Soviet nuclear arms treaty is signed.

1988 — West Germans demand curbs on Nato military flights over their densely populated country.



Young Palestinian boys hurl stones, flash the "V" sign and display a large Palestinian flag in Ramallah, West Bank, last year, during the Intifada. (Reuters wirephoto)

Palestinian uprising marks its second anniversary

Prospects dim for settlement

GAZA CITY, Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, (UPI):

Two years ago columns of black smoke from burning tyres darkened the sky over the refugee camps and barricades blocked every intersection.

Huge crowds of changing Palestinians fearlessly confronted Israeli soldiers at a loss to contain the explosion of hate and frustration bred during two decades of Israeli occupation.

On Dec 9, as the uprising marks its second anniversary, the prospects are dim for a political settlement and the military occupation weighs heavier than ever on the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Intifada, as the uprising is called in Arabic, has become a way of life. Small groups of Arab youths clash regularly with soldiers, but the mass demonstrations and euphoria are a thing of the past and a burning tyre is a rare sight.

Almost every day an Israeli soldier or civilian is injured by a stone and at least a dozen Palestinians wounded by army gunfire. House demolitions, brutal killings of suspected collaborators, general strikes, curfews are the norm.

Israel remains committed to retaining control of the territories and suppressing the violence while the Palestinians will not turn back from their goal of ending the occupation and establishing a Palestinian state.

"Two years of suffering and pain have made the Palestinian people more united. If they put more pressure on us, we will be more united," said a 22-year-old Gaza man waiting outside the Gaza city jail for news of his imprisoned brother. "It's not a short war to be endured one or two years. It's a war for ever."

More than 600 Palestinians have been killed and thousands wounded. Nearly 10,000 Palestinians are imprisoned while the Palestinian economy has been severely hurt by general strikes, boycotts of Israeli goods and curfews.

"When you declare war, expect a war," said Rafi Israeli, an Israeli professor of Islamic studies at Hebrew University. "If you throw stones, don't expect to get flowers back."

But Palestinians see many achievements gained over the last two years: Increased international recognition of their cause, the declaration of an "independent Palestinian state," and the start of dialogue between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the United States.

In addition, Palestinians say they are no longer personally afraid of soldiers and are proud that Israelis are afraid to venture unarmed into their neighbourhoods.

On the Israeli side, the main success has been to reduce the amount of violence and prevent Palestinians from severing themselves from the military's civil administration.

The price has been high: At least \$250 million of the military budget and a doubling of army reserve duty to nearly two months annually. Thirty-eight Israelis, including 10 soldiers, have been killed.

Moreover, Israel's international reputation has suffered, and support from its principle ally and benefactor, the United States, has eroded.

"The cost for 20 years (of occupation) was very low economically, militarily and morally," said Moshe Lissak, sociology professor at occupied

Jerusalem, (UPI): When

Palestinian editor Hanna Siniara told a political forum about his people's 2-year-old uprising, he said their fight had cost Palestinians more than 800 dead, 50,000 wounded and 50,000 detained.

His figures, however, evoked anger from Rafi Israeli, a right-wing Israeli professor who chastised Siniara for his calculations.

"Let me first of all say," Israeli told the same audience of Jews and Arabs, "it is under 800 (killed) and secondly, 20 per cent of those were murdered by Palestinians in the name of the 'freedom and democracy' they want to achieve."

Their argument illustrates another weapon in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — statistics.

How many killed or wounded, how many imprisoned? How many Palestinian crops destroyed when trees were uprooted or farmers confined to their homes during curfews? How many Israeli car windows smashed? How many Palestinians killed by other Palestinians?

Compiling statistics and analysis of Israeli-Arab confrontations and conditions — economic, social, demographic, political — in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is nothing new.

But the 2-year-old Palestinian uprising, with its ramifications for the future of Israel and the occupied territories, made statistics of greater value to all sides to shore up their stands.

Probably one of the most widely used figures

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (UPI):

The Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip marks its second anniversary today.

Following are highlights:

● Dec 9, 1987: Protests erupted over deaths of four Gaza residents in collision with a Palestinian truck driver. Protests spread in ensuing days to West Bank.

● Jan 19, 1988: Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin insists Israel will crush the revolt with "might, force and beatings."

● Feb 25, 1988: Palestinians lynched resident of Kabatiya in the West Bank in first of more than 150 killings of suspected collaborators with Israel.

● April 6, 1988: Palestinians in Beita village of the West Bank attack Jewish settlers: 15-year-old girl hiker accidentally shot dead by Israeli guard, becoming first Israeli civilian casualty of the revolt.

● April 16, 1988: Palestinian commando leader Khalil Al Wazir, known as Abu Jihad, assassinated at his home in Tunis by Israeli commandos.

● Israel sources say Israeli troops kill record 14 Palestinians in Gaza demonstrations the same day.

● July 31, 1988: Jordan's King Hussein announces disengagement from West Bank to let PLO take full responsibility for the Palestinian people.

Jerusalem's Hebrew University. "If there has been one big success of the Intifada, it is that the cost is much higher, and will be much higher in the future."

Supporters of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir say time is on Israel's side as the heavy hand of the army slows the Intifada to a halt and world attention to the popular uprising fades.

Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron said last month the army had achieved its goal of ending mass demonstrations and was not focusing on arresting several hundred "masked men," the hardcore activists who direct demonstrations, punish collaborators and enforce general strikes.

Army officials believe that once several hundred masked men are arrested the violence will decrease drastically. But with a huge pool of Palestinians under 20, there is little doubt other youngsters will

join the ranks of the masked men.

For Iyad, a 17-year-old Gazan wounded in the abdomen by soldiers in the Jadalia refugee camp, the Intifada is a personal struggle.

"Boys in America enjoy themselves, but we are different. We live in a camp," said Iyad from his hospital bed. "In fact, once I am cured I will go back and throw stones. We want to regain our homeland."

The Intifada has had a profound negative effect on Israeli and Palestinian society, "brutalising daily life" and creating an acceptance of violence, according to Israeli researchers.

During the course of the uprising, formerly taboo concepts such as mass expulsion of Palestinians have become accepted topics of debate among Israelis.

this fall defended the army's decision to shoot at masked Palestinian youths, he cited an estimated 125 Arabs at the time killed by the hardcore activists who "oil the wheels of the uprising ... terrorizing the population."

The figure now stands at around 150 Palestinians slain in intercommunal violence, most during the uprising's second year.

The Israeli death toll is considerably less from uprising-related violence — 38 Israelis, including 10 soldiers, slain. The number of casualties in Israel from road accidents since 1987 has been almost 50 times higher than the number of Israeli casualties related to the uprising, the Labour Party's magazine said in surveying the costs of the violence.

One leading Israeli expert on the occupied territories called the emphasis on death tolls and similar arguments "comparative victimology" that has no use when it comes down to trying to negotiate a settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

But the statistics continue to pile up and they show how many that do not always make headlines but do alter the fabric of everyday life.

More than 1,500 soldiers and nearly 800 Israeli civilians have been wounded during the uprising. The military estimates nearly 9,000 Palestinians have been wounded, while the Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre puts the figure at roughly 70,000.

CHRONOLOGY

● Oct 30, 1988: Palestinians kill Israeli woman and her three children in firebomb attack on bus near Jericho in the West Bank. Attack falls on eve of Israeli elections.

● Nov 15, 1988: Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile meeting in Algiers, declares an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

● Dec 14, 1988: President Ronald Reagan says United States ready to open a dialogue with the PLO, ending a 13-year boycott, after Arafat says he recognises Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism.

● April 13, 1989: Israeli police kill five Palestinians in Nahalan village of the West Bank in one of the bloodiest clashes of the revolt.

● May 14, 1989: Israeli cabinet votes 20-6 to accept Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's initiative calling for Palestinians to elect negotiators to discuss self-rule with Israel. Only Washington, Israel's closest ally, endorses the plan.

● May 22, 1989: Army announces arrest of 250 activists from the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas), including its leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

● July 6, 1989: Abdel-Hadi Suleiman Ghannim, 25, of the Gaza Strip, seizes the wheel of an Israeli bus travelling the main highway linking Tel

Aviv and occupied Jerusalem, sending the vehicle plunging into a ravine. 16 Jews die in the attack, the bloodiest in Israel for 11 years.

● Aug 27, 1989: Israel expels five more Palestinians from the occupied territories. Army says 58 have been expelled since the start of the uprising.

● September-October 1989: Israeli Army confiscates \$1.5 million in property from Beit Sahour, besieged West Bank town, for nonpayment of taxes.

● Nov 5, 1989: Israeli cabinet accepts US proposal for talks with Palestinians on the Shamir election campaign. Shamir guarantees to negotiate directly or indirectly with the PLO.

● Dec 5, 1989: Israeli troops shoot dead five commandos who crossed the border from Egypt in a raid apparently timed to coincide with the uprising anniversary. A Palestinian protester is shot dead in the Gaza Strip, the latest Arab killed by troops, taking the toll since the uprising began to 591. Palestinians have killed 151 fellow-Arabs, mostly alleged collaborators with Israel, and 44 Jews have also died.

● Dec 6, 1989: Israeli troops clamp a curfew on the 650,000 Arab residents of the Gaza Strip in an effort to avert unrest on the uprising anniversary.

Letters to the editor

Concern of Muslims

SIR: What is happening in secular India is not concerned to non-Indians. But what is happening to the mosques, security and safety of each and every Muslim is the concern of all Muslims throughout the world.

The recent attempt to build a Hindu temple on a site of a mosque and a report that 9,000 mosques are under Hindu occupation should be the concern of all.

There are evidences that K 150,000 were sent from Kuwait alone to build the Hindu temple on the site of Babri mosque.

I am sure that the present government can handle the safety and security of Muslims and holy shrines in India.

I appeal to the Muslim community in general and OIC in particular to be concerned about Muslims and holy mosques in countries, where Muslims are in minorities.

Abdullah Al Zaid,
Hawaili.

ALL letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Dent in authority

LONDON, (Reuters): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher won a clear victory in the Conservative Party's leadership ballot but the result has put a dent in her authority at home and will not help her standing internationally.

While she was backed by 314 of the 374 Conservative Members of parliament, the 60 votes effectively cast against Thatcher on Tuesday focused fresh attention on her attitude towards European integration.

Thatcher proclaimed the result "overwhelming" but ducked reporter's questions outside her Downing Street residence.

In Strasbourg for European Economic Community summit, Thatcher will be ranged against virtually all British community partners over plans for monetary and economic union and implementation of a social charter to improve the rights of workers.

Her determination to retain sovereign powers and block the creation of "United States of Europe" has been widely attacked both at home and abroad as a brake on European integration.

Maverick MP Sir Anthony Meyer said he launched his challenge, the first against Thatcher since she ousted former Prime Minister Edward Heath as party leader in 1975, in protest at her "distaste" for the EEC, its institutions and its goals.

It came at a time of mounting trouble for Thatcher over a slowing economy with high inflation, liveability and sustained leadership. Opposition Labour Party politician polls and her own personal rating in the polls at an all-time low.

The result fell between two stools and is open to a wide range of interpretation.

The votes cast against Thatcher were short of the more than 70 that her critics said would be a strong signal to modify her autocratic leadership style and be more accommodating on Europe.

But the number of votes against was higher than supporters had anticipated.

"Anything below 50 would have been an absolute triumph for her," said former Conservative Party chairman Norman Tebbit.

It also revealed a sufficiently strong level of dissent to leave open the question of whether Thatcher will face a stronger challenge from more serious rivals in a year's time.

Close colleagues said Michael Heseltine, a front-runner to succeed Thatcher, was one of three MPs who showed their disapproval by not voting at all.

Meyer said on Wednesday there was a growing chorus in the party telling Thatcher: "Really there has to be a change of style, a bit more of an acknowledgement of the need for cabinet government and for playing a proper role in Europe. If the prime minister doesn't heed the warnings, she's in for real trouble."

Quote me

"The fire is not there ... The bottom line to this fight is fire, is desire ... He thinks Roberto is easy and old and he (Leonard) is going to run like he did against (Marvin) Hagler and box and move and slip, die him up ... He can run for 12 rounds. He can't exchange punches for five or six rounds. He's gonna have to fight. All you people out there who are backing Ray Leonard — you're going to blow some dollars." — Mike Aciri, Duran's promoter on Ray Leonard.

"It's not very Christian to hold up people's past rather than judging them on who they are today. I consider it utterly intolerant to judge someone because they sold the wrong books or associated with the wrong people." — Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke who is running for the US Senate on Republican opposition to his running.

"Our job is to make sure that the same opportunities are open to everyone across the community. The winners must be the most efficient firms, not those with the best access to public subsidies." — EEC competition commissioner Leon Brittan on abolition of subsidies for industries.

"I don't know how many more chances I'll have to talk about Ray Leonard. Ray Leonard has always given 100 per cent to the promoters. Ray Leonard's always given 100 per cent to the press and Ray Leonard's always given 100 per cent to the public. He will give 100 per cent Thursday night." — Leonard's attorney Mike Trainer.

"I don't know what motivates Sugar Ray Leonard, that's his problem. All I know is what's stimulated me the last 9 1/2 years. When I signed for this fight, I was the happiest man on earth." — Roberto Duran on his showdown with Sugar Ray Leonard.

"Drastic reforms must be introduced into the way the branches of our government are serving the people so that the rewards and burdens of progress are equitably shared, while craft, corruption and criminality are equitably shared, are decisively curbed. 'If we do not mend our ways even worst things are to come.' Manila Catholic archbishop calling on the government to reform."



Children marks victory

Palestinian children raise a Palestinian flag and the 'V' sign during the celebration of the second anniversary of the uprising. (Reuters wirephoto)

N.Korea, Iran sign military accord

NICOSIA, Dec 8, (AP): Iran and North Korea signed an agreement for defence co-operation today, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The pact came at the end of a six-day visit to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, by Mohammed Rezaie, commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Iran, gave no specific details of the agreement other than saying the two countries will co-operate in defence affairs.

On Thursday, Rezaie met for a second time with North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung, Iran said. In his meeting with Rezaie, Kim welcomed the setting up of a Tehran-Pyongyang joint defence commission.

Rezaie said before leaving Tehran last Sunday that the commission would exchange experiences gained in separate wars. He said the Islamic Republic will also try to learn from North Korea's experiences of post-war reconstruction.

Kim told Rezaie yesterday "we enjoy real independence, which has firm roots in our country," the agency reported.

It quoted him as adding that "in southeast Asia we unfurled the flag of independence. The Islamic Republic of Iran did the same in West Asia."

Rezaie replied that Iran gained its independence at tremendous cost, and will continue to safeguard against all enemies, especially the United States.

The Iranians regard the United States as their primary enemy. Washington was a firm support of deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, ousted in the 1979 revolution.

Badran picks technocrats, Islamists for cabinet

AMMAN, Dec 8, (Reuters): Jordan's new government, boycotted by the Muslim Brotherhood, has a nucleus of senior loyalists padded out with assorted parliamentarians, Islamists and technocrats.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, 55, a former premier and intelligence chief, announced the line-up late on Wednesday after protracted consultations on its composition.

King Hussein replaced the last prime minister, Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker, who returned to his post of royal court chief after supervising Jordan's first general election in 22 years.

The poll, hastened by price riots in April, threw up demands for democratic reform, a more accountable government and a crackdown on alleged official corruption.

The election resulted in a lower house in which the Muslim Brotherhood and various independent Islamists, leftwingers and Arab nationalists outnumbered traditional government supporters.

"It's a well-balanced government," said Kamel Abu Jaber, a political science professor at Jordan University. "It has independents and Islamists, links with the left and the right."

Diplomats said the government was likely to win a confidence vote in parliament, but wholesale abstentions or opposing votes by the Muslim Brotherhood, the leftists or personal opponents of Badran could weaken its credibility.

Badran left Marwan Qassem, Salem Masadeh and Basel Jaradneh in the key posts of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Finance and moved Ibrahim Ezzedin, a former ambassador to Washington, to the Information Ministry.

He introduced 13 new faces, including 10 little-known technocrats from outside parliament.

Iranian bid for Islamic dress

Challenge to Rafsanjani

NICOSIA, Dec 8, (Reuters): Iranian police have tightened enforcement of Islamic dress for women in an apparent political campaign against President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and his liberal policies.

"Vice squad patrols, which virtually vanished from Tehran streets after Rafsanjani took office four months ago, are back on the prowl, taking in women considered indecently clad for a lecture, a fine or the maximum punishment of 74 lashes."

Tehran residents say enforcement is not yet as strict as in previous crackdowns since the 1979 Islamic revolution brought in a dress code requiring women to show no more than face and hands in public.

But the new tough attitude could mean an end, at least temporarily, to the relaxed situation in which a few women even discarded the loose smock, often considered the minimum acceptable female covering, and appeared in suits in public.

Tehran's headline press, led by Jomhuri Eslami, lobbied for a crackdown against every-day criticism of officials for being soft on infringements of Islamic values.

Some Iranians feel the press campaign is essentially a political attack on Rafsanjani, whose government is ultimately held responsible for enforcing the dress code.

"Rafsanjani's economic programmes are seldom criticised. You get the idea from all the noise they are making about vice that this is an indirect way to get at Rafsanjani," an Iranian journalist told Reuters.

Resalat newspaper, traditionally a strong defender of the Islamic dress code but which also backs Rafsanjani's free market policies, has largely steered clear of the current controversy.

Many Iranian women wear the

chador, a long sheet covering from head to toe, which Muslim clerics prescribe as the best "hijab," or covering for women. A loose smock and large headscarf is also considered acceptable.

The new crackdown was signalled two weeks ago when Tehran's revolutionary prosecutor said "corrupt agents of world arrogance" were plotting to ruin the dignity of women under the pretext of progress.

"Public indecency would be considered an anti-Islamic act detrimental to the foundations of the sacred system of the Islamic republic," it said, warning that offenders would be dealt with decisively.

It singled out manufacturers, importers, sellers and wearers of indecent clothes, people whose appearance "is against Islam or causes corruption," and those who produce and distribute decadent pictures and videos.

Iran's main opposition group yesterday offered to help the United Nations probe Iranian human rights.

Iran, criticised in UN human rights reports for the past five years, has for the first time invited UN human rights commission's special representative for the situation in Iran, Reynaldo Galindo Pohl. No date has been announced for his visit.

Massoud Rajavi, leader of the Baghdad-based Mujahideen Khalq group, said in a cable to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Tehran's clerical rulers were keeping Iranians in the dark about Galindo Pohl's mission to prevent him from making a comprehensive probe.

He suggested that members of the Iranian opposition accompany the UN envoy in his visit to Iran to facilitate the investigation, according to a copy of the cable telexed to Reuters in Baghdad.



Bag full of appeals

International Committee of the Red Cross envoy Carlos Bauriedt (right) empties at the ICRC office in the southern port of Sidon a bag full of appeals from Swiss citizens asking for quick release of two Swiss workers kidnapped in Lebanon two months ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

Libya detains American spies

TUNIS, Dec 8, (Reuters): Libya has arrested groups of US agents plotting against it, a senior Libyan leader said in an interview published yesterday.

Major Abdel Salam Jalloud, who ranks second in the Libyan hierarchy, told the Tunisian weekly Le Maghreb when asked about reports of recent arrests of Muslim militants.

"In Libya we don't have a problem of Muslim fundamentalists because Libyan society is an Islamic society and we are Muslim revolutionaries."

"Our problem is with groups working for America and conspiring against the Libyan revolution and the Libyan people, groups plotting on the

orders of US intelligence and nothing to do with Islam or Muslims."

"They confessed to that when we interrogated them." He did not say when the arrests were made. In a speech in October Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi revealed that pitched battles had taken place with Muslim fundamentalists in previous months.

An armed group had set up positions near the eastern town of Ajdabiya and threatened to fire on anyone who approached, he said. He called them heretics and told the General People's Congress (Parliament) they should be fought ferociously.

Police kill Khartoum students

KHARTOUM, Dec 8, (AP): Riot police opened fire on Khartoum University students protesting Sudan's military government, and two students, a man and woman, were shot dead, the official Omdurman radio said yesterday.

The campus remained tense but peaceful after Wednesday's violence just outside, but truckloads of police were stationed nearby.

The trouble grew out of protests over a student's fatal stabbing by another student, allegedly in a fight over campus elections won by Muslim fundamentalists. Police used tear-gas to break up those demonstrations on Tuesday just outside the campus.

Hundreds later joined the reassembled

protesters, chanting anti-government slogans, throwing stones and bricks at riot police and blocking roads.

After a night of trouble, police intervened again on Wednesday with tear-gas and live ammunition to disperse the group.

Windshields were broken in several police vehicles during the ebb and flows of a running battle between police and protesters.

In yesterday's statement, radio Omdurman quoted an Interior Ministry statement saying riot police opened fire on more than 600 demonstrators "in response to students armed with knives and revolvers."

It said Al Taya Ahmed Abu Agla, a

woman studying at the school of education, and arts student Salim Mohamed Abu Bakker were killed. Six other students were slightly injured, the statement said.

The Interior Ministry statement said police intervened because the demonstration called to protest the earlier students' death "took a political colour."

Monday's fight at Khartoum University flared over student union elections. A student from the winning Islamic trend, which supports the disbanded fundamentalist National Islamic Front, allegedly stabbed to death a follower of the Democratic Students Alliance that backs other dissolved political parties.

Organisers of the protest the following day insisted that Bashir El Tayeb Ibra-

him's death was politically motivated. University officials said it was merely a fight that got out of hand.

The Khartoum University trouble followed a doctors' strike over the dismissal of physicians from government posts. The government blamed that disorder on communists and brought four alleged strike leaders before a military tribunal to face charges that could lead to death sentences.

The National Islamic Front is thought to be close to the government, which took power in a June 30 military coup. In the university demonstrations that followed Ibrahim's killing, students blamed the ruling junta, chanting slogans like "a million martyrs for a new era," and "April lives on."

Israel accepts 3-way talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 8, (Agencies): Israel decided today to send Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to Washington for meetings with his US and Egyptian counterparts that could lead for the first time to formal Israeli-Palestinian talks.

In a decision that brought protests from opposition politicians and right-wing rebels within the government, Arens, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Vice-Premier Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to start arrangements for the meeting, prompted by Egypt's approval of a US peace plan.

"It was decided ... to hold preparatory contacts prior to a meeting of the three foreign ministers," cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein told reporters.

After the meeting, cabinet secretary said the ministers had decided the Egyptian response was a positive one and that Israel would hold contacts with the United States to clear the way for convening the three-way meeting in Washington.

In Washington, the State Department released the complete text of US Secretary of State James Baker's five-point formula on the Middle East.

● The United States understands that because Egypt and Israel have been working hard on the peace process, there is agreement that an Israeli delegation should conduct a dialogue with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo.

● The United States understands that Egypt cannot substitute itself for the Palestinians and Egypt will consult with Palestinians on all aspects of that dialogue. Egypt will also consult with Israel and the United States.

● The United States understands that Israel will attend the dialogue only after a satisfactory list of Palestinians has been worked out.

● The United States understands that the government of Israel will come to the dialogue on the basis of the Israeli government's May 14 initiative. The United States further understands that Palestinians will come to the dialogue prepared to discuss elections and the negotiating process in accordance with Israel's initiative. The US understands, therefore, that Palestinians would be free to raise issues that relate to their opinions on how to make elections and the negotiating process succeed.

● In order to facilitate this process, the US proposes that the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, and the US meet in Washington within two weeks.

Massive Israeli troop reinforcements and curfews on nearly a million Arabs imposed a solemn silence on the occupied territories on the eve of the second anniversary of the Palestinian uprising.

The army sent thousands of extra soldiers to patrol the West Bank and Gaza Strip with orders to squelch the first signs of demonstrations and prevent Arab workers from entering Israel.

"Life is difficult but even if it takes 10 or 15 years, we will continue the struggle," a defiant teenager said today in Mahalla, south of Bethlehem, where border police shot dead five residents last April 13 in one of the bloodiest clashes of the revolt.

Syrians quell Beirut battle

Protest strike against Aoun

BEIRUT, Dec 8, (Reuters): Syrian troops opened fire at warring militiamen in Muslim West Beirut today to enforce a ceasefire in more than 24 hours of bloody fighting between rival Shi'ite groups.

Syrians armed with rifle and rocket-propelled grenades moved into at least five neighbourhoods where the Syrian-backed Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah have battled since noon on Thursday.

Security and hospital sources said 10 people had been killed and 20 wounded in the inter-militia fighting, while witnesses said another two militiamen were killed by the Syrian soldiers today.

The witnesses said Syrian troops rounded up many militiamen from both Shiite groups in the Bourj Abou Haidar area, where the fiercest fighting erupted, and took them by truck to an unknown destination.

Streets in areas torn by fighting were stained with blood and littered with broken glass and concrete fragments. Scores of cars were peppered with shrapnel or gutted by fire.

As the Syrian presence quelled fighting, residents began to leave their bomb shelters.

"I will never feel safe until militias are disbanded for good because the minute the Syrians go away, the militiamen come back," said one resident, Wisal Webbeh.

"I heard a militiaman shout Allah-o-Akbar (God is great) when he was shot ... his blood is still on the pavement," said Aminah Mu'asher, a resident of Bourj Abou Haidar.

"We're living in hell. This fighting has no meaning. It only brings more destruction. Brothers are killing each other. People have no logic or human values left," she said.

The fighting dealt another blow to the government of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi, striving to impose his authority on Christian army chief General Michel Aoun. Aoun, fiercely opposed to

Lahd wants help for Aoun

MARIJAYOUN, Lebanon, Dec 8, (Reuters): The head of Israel's Lebanese militia ally has asked the Jewish state to plunge back into Lebanon's maelstrom to aid Christian army chief Michel Aoun.

General Antoine Lahd, in a rare appearance since narrowly escaping assassination 13 months ago, said he did not have the forces necessary to help Aoun resist Syrian troops facing the East Beirut Christian enclave.

"General Aoun does not ask (Israel) for help himself," Lahd told Israel-based reporters taken yesterday to his headquarters in southern Lebanon.

"I initially contacted the Israeli authorities and requested them to see whether there would be a way of helping General Aoun," he said.

Syria's presence in Lebanon, has rejected the Arab League-brokered peace accord under which Hrawi was elected last month.

Syria has reinforced its troops facing the Christian enclave where Aoun is entrenched but Syrian media said today Damascus planned no immediate attack.

Syrian Information Minister Mohammed Salman told the BBC: "The only reason Syria has so far discounted the military option to end Aoun's rebellion is its desire to avert huge losses among civilians in the eastern sector of Beirut."

"The Syrian forces could, if they wanted, speedily resolve the

problem of Aoun in Lebanon through military means. But the Syrian leadership is fully convinced there will be no need to resort to this as Aoun's removal is a matter of time and will take place quickly through political means," he said.

■ Muslims and Christians loyal to President Elias Hrawi went on strike yesterday to protest at what they see as defiant Christian General Michel Aoun's plan to partition Lebanon.

Banks, shops, schools and businesses closed across three quarters of the country outside the Aoun-controlled Christian enclave.



Police fire tear gas

Tunisian riot police fought in the centre of the capital yesterday with Muslim militants demonstrating in support of the Palestinian uprising. Several hundred demonstrators waving their fists in the air and shouting, "there is no God but Allah, Israel is the enemy of God," marched down the main shopping street, Habib Bourguiba avenue, until the police fired tear gas to disperse them.

Iran speedboats threat to Oman

MUSCAT, Dec 8, (AP): Iranian traders in high-powered speedboats are an increasing source of marine pollution threatening Omani beaches, environmental sources said yesterday.

Iranian cross-Gulf travelling has jumped markedly due to the more liberal economic policies instituted following the death of the Ayatollah Khomeini in June and the August 1988 ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

The sources said that the traders motor across the 24-mile (40-km) wide Strait of Hormuz separating Iran and Oman. They trade in towns and cities along the Gulf coastline, mainly in the United Arab Emirates, where they buy luxury goods to import into Iran.

"They are perfectly legal traders and all their papers are in perfect order ... but the point is they are messing up the shoreline," said one of the sources. "They use fishing villages along the Musandam coastline as staging points, leaving a trail of floating merchandise in their wake."

Relations between Iran and the small Gulf states are a sensitive issue, and the environmentalists spoke on condition that their names not be used.

Torture widespread in Turkey: US group

ANKARA, Dec 8, (AP): The New York City Bar Association claimed in a report released today that torture has been commonly used in Turkish police stations and that the Turkish legal system has failed to respond to it.

The report, obtained by the Associated Press, said torture remained widespread despite Turkey's ratification of the European human rights convention and the United Nations convention against torture, as well as prohibitions against torture in Turkish law.

The 111-page report, "Torture in Turkey: the legal system's response," was prepared by a delegation of four lawyers from the association's committee on international human rights.

The Turkish government had no immediate response. In the past, government officials have denied torture was practiced systematically, saying that there have been only isolated incidents, which they described

as police brutality.

The delegation visited Turkey from May 28-June 8, travelling to the capital of Ankara, Diyarbakir in the southeast and Istanbul in the northwest. The lawyers met with more than 100 people in the United States and Turkey, including government officials, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, former prisoners and detainees.

The report said that torture is often used during the 15-day period in which Turkish prisoners can be held incommunicado after arrest.

■ Turkish communists risked arrest today to hold a first public meeting after over 60 years of illegality, hoping that reforms in Turkey and Europe would allow them to form a legal party at last.

Police blocked the advertised meeting place in an Istanbul cinema but allowed it to proceed in a journalists' club, led by the banned Turkish United Communist Party (TBKB).

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Habibi suggests

NICOSIA, Dec 8, (Reuters): Iranian first Vice-President Hassan Ebrahim Habibi suggested yesterday that government officials be moved out of Tehran, celebrating its 20th year as the capital with growing congestion and pollution.

Habibi, opening an exhibition of documents and pictures tracing Tehran's history, was quoted by Tehran Radio as saying transferring the capital elsewhere could ease the city's problems.

5 die in floods

ATHENS, Dec 8, (UPI): At least five people were killed in flash floods caused by heavy rain in western Iran over the past two days, Tehran Radio said yesterday.

The governor of Dehloran, in western Iran, said at least five people were killed and heavy damage done to livestock and farms in the region when the swollen Charkher river overtopped its banks following days of heavy rain.

Syrians jailed

LOD, Israel, Dec 8, (Reuters): Two teenage Syrian commandos shouted abuse at an Israeli military court yesterday before being jailed for 25 years for trying to attack the northern border town of Metulla.

Asked if they wished to make a statement before sentencing, Yasser Al Muezzin, 18, and Mohammed Diab, 17, both members of the Palestine Liberation Front, cried: "The day will come when you will stand trial here. We regret nothing."

Yang to tour

BEIJING, Dec 8, (AP): Chinese President Yang Shangkun will visit Egypt and three other Middle East countries in his first overseas trip since the pro-democracy turmoil of this spring.

The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that Yang, 62, will visit Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman, starting Dec 18.

Britain can help

SANAA, Dec 8, (Reuters): British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said yesterday Britain could help develop its former colony in Yemen once the north and south had reunited.

Waldegrave was addressing a news conference shortly before leaving for Oman after a three-day visit to Sanaa during which he met President Ali Abdullah Saleh and other North Yemeni leaders.

Nemeth to visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 8, (Reuters): Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth will visit Israel in February, the first East European leader to do so since the Soviet Union and its communist allies severed relations with the Jewish state in 1967.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Hungarian prime minister accepted an invitation from Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who returned from Budapest yesterday.

Rebels delaying talks

ADDIS ABABA, Dec 8, (Reuters): Ethiopia accused Eritrean rebels yesterday of delaying the start of full-scale peace talks on Africa's longest-running civil war.

"Ethiopia has announced its readiness to enter into substantive talks within the shortest possible time not exceeding two months," Deputy Prime Minister Ashaghe Vigieta said.

Waldegrave in Oman

NICOSIA, Dec 8, (Reuters): British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave arrived in Muscat today for talks on promoting ties, the Oman News Agency said.

Waldegrave, who also visited North and South Yemen on his Gulf tour.

Rebels killed

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey, Dec 8, (AP): Nine suspected guerrillas including six foreigners were killed in a clash with security forces in the southeastern township of Cizre near the Syrian border, officials said.

The announcement by the regional governor's office, carried by the semi-official Anatolia news agency, said a government soldier was also killed in the shootout.

Somalia denies

MOGADISHU, Dec 8, (Reuters): Somalia has denied a claim by rebels that they have captured the town of Hargeisa, a war-torn provincial capital in the north.

An Interior Ministry statement read over state radio last night said the claim by rebels of the Somali National Movement (SNM) was "baseless and without foundation."

To publish paper

TUNIS, Dec 8, (Reuters): Tunisia's Islamic Movement has sought permission to publish a newspaper in a bid to become recognised as a political party, a spokesman for the group said today.

Officials said they wanted the Nahdha (renaissance) Movement to put its policies down in writing before deciding whether to legalise it.

Rebels refuse to surrender

(Continued from Page 1)

another Marcos crony, Aquino noted the coincidence that the coup took place a week after he returned after more than three years in US exile.

Since the mutiny began Dec 1, at least 83 people, mostly civilians, have been killed and 581 wounded in the nation's deadliest coup attempt since the Philippines gained independence in 1946.

At the air base, Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, leading the insurgents at the sprawling facility, refused to give up.

Aquino made no reference to any of the complaints by Laurel, the rebels or other critics who claim her government has failed to live up to promises of social justice and reform.

In Cebu city, 350 miles (560 kilometres) to the south, 400 rebels refused to surrender Mac-tan Air Base, the last garrison known to be in rebel hands.

At least 83 people have been killed and more than 580 others wounded in what has been the bloodiest attempt to topple Aquino.

The crowd at today's rally was smaller than in 1986 but appeared to be among the largest at a presidential rally since Aquino took power.

Government officials encouraged workers to attend the rally, and participants were bused from as far as Angeles, 80 kilometres (50 miles) to the north.

Aquino spoke primarily in Tagalog, the main Philippine language, using an earthy accent and phraseology associated with simple, uneducated Filipinos.

Speaking briefly in English, she said: "I want all of us to unite and to give support to the democratic systems of government and to go after these people who want to destroy our democracy, who want to destroy our economy, who want to destroy the Filipino people."

Estimates of the crowd size at today's rally varied widely. Government television said one million people joined the rally, but reporters estimated the crowd at more than 100,000.

Loyal forces backed by air cover from US F-4 fighter jets recaptured last Friday most of the installations seized by the rebels, primarily members of elite Marine and Scout Ranger units.

Early yesterday, mutineers ended their takeover of the Manila financial district of Makati after allowing more than 1,800 foreigners to be evacuated from hotels and apartments in the fashionable area.

But in Cebu city, rebel Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador refused to surrender the last remaining stronghold, which includes the country's second international commercial airport.

To negotiate for surrender is still out of the question," said Comendador, speaking to reporters with an Uzi sub-machine-gun slung over his shoulder. "Surrender seems to be the only option that they want."

Comendador has threatened to blow up military planes at the base if government forces attack. The office of civil defence said nearly 23,000 people had been evacuated from the Mactan area since Tuesday.

"The actions of the government in Manila have not resulted in the defeat" of the mutineers seeking Aquino's ouster, Comendador said. "We have been able to hold our position."

He said his soldiers have placed sandbags throughout the base for protection should the 2,000 loyalist troops decide to open fire. Another 600 marines from Manila were dispatched to

Cory's political future doubtful

WASHINGTON, (AP): Philippine President Corazon Aquino's ability to survive politically is in doubt and may depend on how seriously she takes the lessons of the latest coup attempt, senior Bush administration official said Wednesday.

"She's been hurt, there's no question about it," said the official, who briefed the small group of reporters on the condition he not be named.

It was the first time since the military rebellion began last week that the Bush administration had voiced concerns about the mutiny's long-term effects on Aquino's future.

The officials spoke a little more than an hour before news came from Manila that rebel troops holding a downtown district had agreed to return to their barracks.

The administration official, in an apparent attempt to send a clear signal to Aquino, said the United States must now "reassess what all this means" in terms of US assistance to her government.

He did not elaborate. But the official called the insurrection a "serious" attempt to topple Aquino and said she should

regard it as such.

He called on Aquino to seek to "eliminate the sources of discontent which help lead to the coup" as she struggles to reassert control.

The US officials noted that the restiveness in the military gave Col Gregorio Honasan, a leader of the coup attempt, far more support over the last week than he had when he led a previous effort to oust Aquino.

Earlier, US officials praised as "careful and effective" a Philippine evacuation that freed 180 Americans and other foreigners from the Manila hotels where they had been trapped by gunfire in the six-day-old rebellion.

The evacuation followed negotiations between the Aquino government and the rebels to reach a ceasefire, said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler. US officials had no contact with the rebels, she said.

All those trapped in the hotel district were freed without injury, she said, and were taken by bus to processing centres set up by the US embassy to help them contact relatives and make lodging and travel plans.



A nun uses a binocular to see Aquino while the rest cheer her during a peaceful rally in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rebel soldiers march down on a Manila street carrying the flag of the Philippines as they head for their barracks after surrender. (Reuters wirephoto)

1,485 in custody

Mutineers to face trial

MANILA, Dec 8, (Reuters): About 1,500 mutinous soldiers who launched the latest coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino are to face court martial, a top military official said today.

Brigadier General Oscar Florendo said 1,485 of the estimated 3,000 rebel troops who joined the six-day rebellion were in custody. About 400 of them surrendered yesterday after occupying hotels, apartment blocks and commercial buildings in the Makati financial district.

"They will be tried by the military courts," he said in a telephone interview. He said all those who either surrendered or were captured are in the barracks and are being investigated.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said an estimated 3,000 soldiers took part in the sixth and most bloody coup attempt that began on Dec 1.

He said the number was not more than two per cent of the 150,000-strong armed forces. "The 98 per cent stood fast and defended the republic and adhered to the chain of command."

reinforce the government soldiers, who massed behind tanks, armoured personnel carriers and military trucks.

The rebels blocked the runway shared with the Mactan international airport.

Armed forces Chief of Staff, Renato de Villa, issued his most impassioned appeal yet to stop Comendador from carrying out his threat and exploding the

aircraft, vital in the country's fight against communist guerrillas.

"If we fight among each other the beneficiary will be the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army (NPA)," De Villa said.

"If Comendador makes good his threat to destroy our aircraft, it is as good as giving aid and comfort to the NPA."

A battalion of pro-government

Bush supports

HOUSTON, Dec 8, (AP): President George Bush voiced strong support for Philippine President Corazon Aquino here during a political fund-raiser.

During a speech at the fund-raiser yesterday, the President departed from his text to praise Aquino.

"Just last week democracy was challenged in the Philippines," Bush said. "And we stood with President Aquino and we continue to stand with her and with democracy now. We must not let the democratic process be overthrown by revolution and by military takeovers."

Crocodile's role

MANILA, Dec 8, (AP): A 2-metre (6-foot) crocodile snatched two mutinous soldiers from sneaking into a suburban military camp at the height of a coup attempt to topple President Corazon Aquino, the state-run news agency reported.

The Philippine news agency said the rebels fled after seeing the crocodile in a canal leading to Camp Crame, home of the Philippine constabulary, in the opening hours of the coup attempt last Friday.

The agency reported that the crocodile was a pet of Col. Adam Jimenez and had been placed in the waterway just hours earlier as part of the camp's defence against rebel forces.

Viet support

BANGKOK, Dec 8, (Reuters): Vietnam has expressed support for President Corazon Aquino's government in the wake of the failed coup attempt in the Philippines.

"We always want to strengthen our friendly and co-operative ties with the republic of the Philippines and the government of Aquino in order to contribute to building a peaceful, stable, and co-operative," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Ho The Lan was quoted as saying.

Her comments at a regular press conference yesterday were reported by the Vietnam news agency, monitored in Bangkok today.

ment marines was sent to the Cebu area today to reinforce units facing the mutineers in a tense standoff.

The military loaded hundreds of captured mutineers aboard a prison ship in Manila Bay. Military officials said investigations would be conducted on soldiers above the rank of captain to determine if they would be court-martialed.



One who couldn't stand it

An unconscious woman is being carried on a stretcher by Red Cross volunteers through thousands of supporters of Aquino during a peaceful rally in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stocks may plunge

Manila market reopens on Monday

MANILA, (Reuters): Manila's twin stock exchanges will reopen on Monday after being closed for six trading days by an attempted coup against President Corazon Aquino, the exchanges said in a joint statement on Thursday.

Philippines brokers said they expected stock prices to plunge as long as foreign investors, anxious about the Philippines' political and economic future, dumped their shares.

"Maybe a 20 per cent fall could be expected and blamed on the effect of the coup," said Joseph Rodas, an analyst at R. Coyuto Securities.

Analysts noted the last coup attempt, in August 1987, helped to depress the market during the whole of 1988.

Soldiers trying to overthrow Aquino launched the latest attempt on Dec 1, laying siege to most of the Makati financial district the next day.

The district, where the Makati Stock Exchange is located, because a battle zone until a ceasefire on Wednesday. The rebels left the area on Thursday, agreeing to a request from government negotiators to return to their barracks.

The Manila Stock Exchange was several miles from the fighting but was also closed because stock transfer offices in Makati were not operating.

Roxas said traders were likely to keep away from the market while they asked themselves, "Can Cory make it?"

"The recent coup attempt will certainly have a negative psychological effect on investors, and for good reasons because the fundamentals are certainly going to be affected," Roxas said.

Investors were worried about rising inflation even before the coup attempt, and a government decision to raise prices of petrol, diesel oil and cooking gas had angered labour unions, which threatened a national strike.

On Nov 29, the last day of the market was open, the index closed at 1,317.86 points in a traditional pre-Christmas slump. The market had been easing since a record high of 1,396.25 on Nov 20.

Businessmen and economists said the failed coup, the sixth and most serious against Aquino since she took office in February 1986, had jeopardised economic gains made by her government and scared away potential investors.

It also put in doubt government programmes to alleviate poverty and propel the agriculture-based economy into full industrialisation during the next decade.

Officials said they expected loans from foreign governments and multilateral institutions to go ahead, but said private invest-

ment might be put on hold.

Before the mutiny, officials had forecast economic growth of 6.3 per cent in 1990 after an estimated 5.8 per cent this year. Economic Planning Secretary Jesus Estanislao said the 1990 growth target would now be difficult to achieve.

"There is quite a lot of cost for rehabilitation," he said.

There were heavy withdrawals by jittery depositors when banks outside the Makati area reopened on Monday, prompting the Central Bank to add two billion pesos (\$39 million) in fresh money to the banking system from Monday to Wednesday.

Margarito Teves, chairman of the House of Representatives committee on economic affairs, said the rate of withdrawals was higher than during any previous emergency.



Have bullet, will go

A rebel Filipino soldier seated on an APC hands out bullets to local residents after rebel troops surrendered to government soldiers. Rebels took control of buildings in Makati during an attempted coup. (Reuters wirephoto)

Credit rating

to drop

MANILA, (Reuters): The value of Philippine debt paper in secondary markets will drop in the wake of the failed coup, but this is not expected to threaten a debt buyback plan worked out with foreign creditors, a Central Bank official said on Thursday.

"The banks have already made their tenders at a 50 per cent discount," said the official, who declined to be named.

He was referring to Manila's deal to buy back \$1.3 billion of debt from foreign commercial banks at a discount. The deal, announced last week before the coup attempt began, aims to reduce the country's \$27 billion debt burden.

The value of Philippine debt traded by banks in secondary markets is an indicator of the confidence of foreign creditors and investors in the Philippines.

Economic Planning Secretary Jesus Estanislao said the country's credit abroad would drop.

Manila hopes to raise at least a billion dollars in fresh money from commercial banks to help bridge a \$1.4 billion financing gap for 1989 and 1990. Officials said before the coup attempt that the amount might only reach 750 million.

"Even the banks which are willing to put new money under that programme will likely raise the credit risk of the Philippines," Estanislao said.

However, he said the impact of downgrading the country's rating depends on what we do now.

In London, holders of Philippine secondary market debt are still waiting to see the political fallout of the coup attempt before deciding on their positions. Philippine paper was steady at 47 per cent of face value.

Army dagger remains pointed at Aquino's back

MANILA, (Reuters): A dangerously fragmented army has placed democracy's future in the Philippines in the balance with a small but important section of the military refusing to accept President Corazon Aquino's rule.

Political analysts said Aquino's decision to assume emergency powers may win back the support of a population long waiting for her to show strength, but her politicised army would remain like a dagger pointed at her back.

"The last coup attempt is over. But the military rebellion remains. A state of war exists... what we are seeing is an indefinite truce," editor-in-chief Francisco Tatad of the pro-opposition Newday newspaper said in a commentary on Friday.

The latest army revolt was the most serious and best organised of the six Aquino has confronted since coming to power nearly four years ago. The number of mutineers taking part were estimated at from 3,000 to 6,000.

About 2,000 soldiers took part in the fifth attempt in August 1987 when the same group of rebel officers, led by now-



Col Galvez

cashiered Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, almost toppled her.

The latest revolt, unlike the previous five, involved mainly two elite military groups, the Scout Rangers and the Marines, the country's top fighting units.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, head of a faction loyal to Aquino, dismissed the latest attempt as involving only about two per cent of the regular army

Coup leaders may resort to terrorism, says army chief

MANILA, (Reuters): The Philippine armed forces chief said on Thursday army rebels could never threaten Manila again because they had lost all their equipment but gave a warning that they could resort to terrorism.

General Renato de Villa said the leaders of the coup, crushed on Thursday after a week of the worst street fighting seen here since World War Two, were still at large, but toothless.

About 600 rebels holed up in the Makati financial district surrendered earlier in the day, leaving only a small group led by Brigadier-General Jose Comendador still defiantly holding Mactan Air Base in the central Philippines.

"All their armour is either destroyed or captured by us," De Villa said. "It would be the height of

foolishness for anyone to form another force to come and threaten the national capital once more."

De Villa urged loyalist troops to "remain steadfast and not be taken in by rebel propaganda that there will be a phase two or phase three to the coup."

"There is no way any more that any massive or significant force can be formed to threaten the capital," he said.

"Perhaps what they're referring to now is a revision of their effort into criminality and terrorism."

"That is a possibility but then if they do this, the more the people will hate them and the more they will lose whatever little sympathy or support some groups in our society may have for them."

Government troops held a victory parade at Makati after escorting the rebels to their barracks. They

Another group was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment with hard labour while most of the rest either received light sentences or were acquitted by military courts.

"Soldiers have the mentality of warriors and they respect only warriors. It would help this government if it would make an example of the top leaders of the rebellion by summarily punishing them," said a university

marched in columns behind armoured cars to the rousing cheers of civilians lining the streets.

Armoured vehicles still guarded key intersections as explosives experts combed the high-rise buildings and hotels in the area to defuse possible booby traps.

The attempted coup was the sixth against Aquino since she took office in 1986 in a popular revolution that overthrew president Ferdinand Marcos.

Accusing her of being soft on communism and incapable of ending graft and corruption, the rebels last week staged an uprising masterminded by cashiered Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who also led a failed coup in 1987.

Honasan escaped from detention in April 1988 and is still at large.

Referring to Comendador, de Villa urged him not

to carry out a threat to destroy aircraft on the ground, including two C-130 transport planes, nine UH-1H Huey helicopters and two Sikorsky helicopters.

He said this would put troops at disadvantage in the battle against communist guerrillas and Comendador would be responsible for casualties they suffered.

Defence Minister Fidel Ramos urged Comendador to face reality and give up the lost struggle.

At a ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo, the armed forces headquarters attacked by the rebels last Friday, Ramos said more than 3,000 rebels took part in the failed uprising — only about two per cent of the military's total strength.

"You just can't replace these men," one analyst said. "These are among the best and the brightest in the army. It's not as though you are replacing accountants in your office."

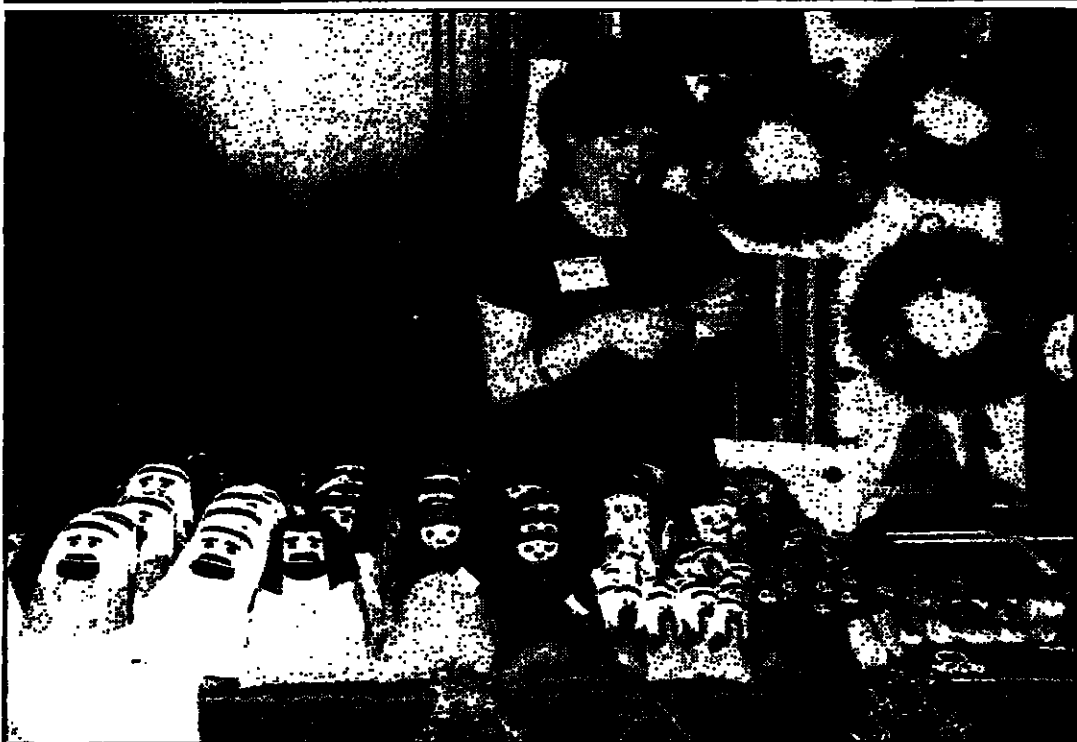
Aquino has denounced rebel

officers as traitors whose goal is to grab political power and install a military junta. The rebels accuse her of incompetence and of tolerating official corruption, and warn of a communist takeover if she is not removed from office.

Many Filipinos fear the rise of a military strongman in the Philippines if Aquino is overthrown.

EX-120150

EVENTS



LIL hold winter party and mini-bazaar

THE Ladies International League (LIL) held their winter party and a mini-bazaar last week. Ladies from more than 20 countries, all members of the recently formed group, took part in the fun and games gala.

Handcrafted festive items, made by members, was one of the highlights of the evening.

LIL hopes to break national barriers and create friendship between women of different countries in Kuwait. They want to step up social activities with the ultimate goal of enabling its members to "gain an insight to the people and cultures of other countries." In some ways, LIL wants to prepare its members on how to avoid culture shock.

Informal LIL meetings are fun to join in, especially as its executives discourage ladies from

forming "ethnic pockets." Ladies are encouraged to meet each other and "learn about each other." Executives feel this would help ladies to make new friendships.

LIL holds story-telling sessions for children and hopes to expand its activities to video movie previews and other activities. Their next big event would be the Valentines Day dinner.

LIL has over 100 members, but welcomes newcomers to join the group. It holds monthly meetings, mostly on the first Monday of each month. Annual membership fees are KD150 each, non-members, who are welcome to attend, are charged KD250 each.

The pictures show seasonal items at the mini bazaar.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher news and variety
9.55 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Hawer Zaver: Local serial (part 1, starring, Abdul Husain Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber, Abdul Aziz Al Fahad, Sulaiman Al Mansour)

12.00 From My Kitchen: Local programme
12.30 News summary
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Bercen: Cartoon serial
5.15 The Young Artist: Children's local programme
5.45 Night: Chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: Religious serial (part 28)

6.45 Noor Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qader

7.25 Cultural programme
8.00 Security and citizens: Local programme, prepared by Ministry of Interior, Public Relations Office

8.30 Good evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Sabar: Daily Arabic serial (part 12)

10.35 Fi Intezar Khali Al Bai: Arabic feature, starring Kareema Mukhtar, Mohammed Redha, Fatima Al Tabie

11.45 News summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV2

6.00 Opening Announcement & Holy Quran
6.10 Hello Kitty. A cartoon series for children

6.30 Woof. "Eric and Ron" agree to use "Woof" as a pass word to be used when necessary.

7.00 The Survival Factor. "A Cuckoo in The Nest." The Cuckoo has its own unique method of ensuring healthy offspring. It leaves chick rearing to other birds!

7.30 Out of This World. "Evie goes to Hollywood." Evie, her mother, her uncle "Beano" and a family friend go to Hollywood where they experience many unexpected events

8.00 News in English

8.30 Diamonds. "Le Cheval." Mike and Christine travel to Paris to lend a helping hand to their two French friends, where the French police arrest them.

9.30 The Infinite Voyage. "The Geometry of Life." Deoxyribonucleic Acid or DNA is the keeper of the genetic code that governs all life on earth. The geometry of life explores the behaviour patterns of twins.

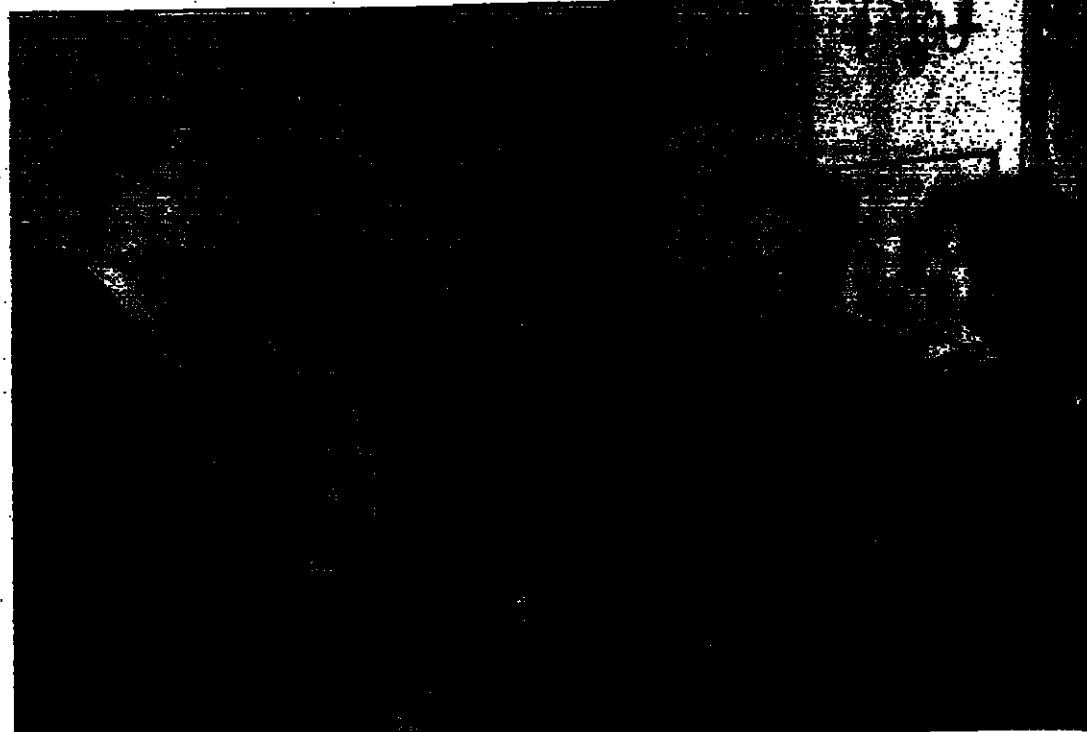
10.30 Movie. "Intimate Betrayal". Starring: James Rawlen, Melody Anderson. While "Mike" is chased by his car skids into deep river and is considered missing. Mike's wife comes to know that her husband is still alive and plans to find out the secret of his disappearance.

12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite.

© All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22322) to Events Section or hand delivered. Daily except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shurwath. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.06 am
Zohr 11.40
Asr 2.31 pm
Maghreb 4.50
Isha 6.12



British Ambassador hosts reception

British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe hosted a reception for a team of surgeons from the Royal Academy of Surgeons, London. The doctors were in Kuwait to conduct medical examinations for students of Kuwait's Medical Faculty. A number of distinguished Kuwaiti doctors attended the reception.



Pakistan Peoples Club celebrates democracy

The Pakistan People's Club recently held a ceremony to mark the first anniversary of democracy in Pakistan. The celebration was attended by PPC President Riaz Ahmad Mahasar, General Secretary Rafiq Ahmed Mirza, Aslam Javed, A.G. Allama, C.H. Arif, Haji Qamar and others. PPC members lauded the restoration of democracy after an absence of 11 years. Riaz urged members to re-dedicate themselves to work for the welfare of the poor in their country. Picture shows Mirza giving Dr Mahesar a bite of the cake.

NIGHT CHERRY		
Kuwait Hajeri Pharmacy Helali St. Baqami Pharmacy Ahmad Al Jaber St. Hawalli & Nagra Kamal Pharmacy	Tunis St. Salimiya Dena Pharmacy Ext. of Amman St. Fahad Shaibah Pharmacy	Farwaniya Farwaniya Pharmacy Munawer Complex Jahra Al Nour Pharmacy Matafi St.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

ARTS

Seminar

THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiocal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

Musical evening with Adnan Butt

ADNAN BUTT, a talented and versatile radio, TV and stage singer from Pakistan will be performing at the El Dirat Ramada Al Salam Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, at 6.00 pm. Those interested in attending the event should contact the following phone numbers for details after 4.30 pm: 3919720, 3610088, 4743955, 4760502, 5643851 and 5712731.

NRI General Body Meeting

NRI Investors Forum holding annual G.B. meeting at Indian embassy on December 15 at 11.00 am. Investment speakers specially invited from India. Also presentation of NRI of the Year trophy. Followed by complimentary lunch for members.

Kuwait Cultural Centre

NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

Star Nite

DEC 21: Thursday Christmas dinner social at Ramada Al Salam Le Mirage Ballroom from 9 pm with Stepping Stones music. Variety entertainment and prizes galore for lucky 5 5 5 promotion and X'mas Hamper draws with sumptuous buffet at mid-night. Children's programme commences at 6 to 8.30 pm with Fancy Dress Competition.

For reservations please contact Vincent Tel. 2413706, James 5331940 also at Shop No. 34 A.M. Ex-New Super Market Kuwait.

KOSA meeting

KOSA Annual General Meeting - 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Declan Mannion on 2452880.

Vishal Musical Group

VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funatites Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre, Ahmadi, proudly present their traditional pantomime extravaganza - Sinbad the Sailor. Tickets are now on sale for the following performances: Evening performances on 6th and 13th Dec at 7 pm. Matinee performances on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Dec at 2 and 5 pm. Ring 3919759 now to avoid disappointment.

IAC Children's Competition

THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funatites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 13th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

Saz Aur Aawaz

FEB 2: Saz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisre Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funatites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

X'mas tree '89

CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include 'carol singing competition' (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel: 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

Variety Show

UPKAAAR is a newly formed non-profit cultural group of Hindi/Urdu speaking expatriates in Kuwait. Upkaar, whose aim is to promote art, culture and literature is going to hold an inaugural variety entertainment programme at Al Sharq Co-operative Auditorium comprising of dances, dramas, musical items and pantomimes on December 15 at 6.00 pm. This will be followed by a buffet dinner. Interested persons may contact 4880965 or 2615515.

United Goans Centre

SANTA Claus is coming to town on December 15 at the Al Salam Hotel in the Al Deira Hall exactly at 9.30 am, with loads of gifts and sweets for all your children. Make your presence at the United Goans Centre's X'mas party. A unique fancy dress parade for children and lots of surprises awaits the young and the old. Lively music from the "Next of Kin." For further information contact Tony 2612024 or Moses 2424293.

Kuwait Goans

DEC 15: Annual children's X'mas tree function will be held at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises awaits for one and all. Top Ranks in attendance. Crib competition will be judged by Santa Claus specially flown from London.

To avoid disappointment call for your early bookings on 2413348.

Kuwait Singers

"AT this time of Year" is the theme of the Kuwait Singers annual seasonal concert which will be held on Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 14 at 7.30 pm at the Gulf English School, Salwa. For ticket reservations contact 5384873 or 5382551.

X'mas tree

DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X'mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11.30am onwards. Assumptuous buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12.00pm sharp.

British Council

Greystoke - The Legend of Tarzan

SATURDAY, 9 and Sunday, 10 December, 6.30 pm. 130 min. This is an extremely interesting and unusual film. This Tarzan manages to lose his primate and human families. His disillusionment with what he sees of civilization, despairing of ever feeling truly at home at Greystoke, he returns to the jungle. The case is excellent, but the real stars are the team of actors who portrayed so realistically the jungle apes.

Pongal celebrations

BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astans Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funatites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelty and surprises galore.

Music Night

MUSIC Night at "The Lonesome Traveller." A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Arabic film

Salamiyah
Hall booked

Al Haura
Arabic film

Drive-In
Arabic film

Al Firdous
Scalps

Fahad Open
Closed for winter

Fahad
Yateem

Al Jahra
Prime Risk

Granada
The Millagro Bean Field War

Solabikhat
Arabic film

Jleeh
Dowtham

Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

BUSINESS & FINANCE

India may continue economic liberalisation

Taxation to be simplified

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

THE National Front's election manifesto called for freeing the country from indiscriminate and highly-expensive technologies, the humiliating burden of fast-establishing foreign debt and the abject dependence on multinational corporations.

Businessmen and economists expect the new government to continue Rajiv Gandhi's widely-lauded liberalisation policy in order to get economic reform back into gear.

Madhu Dandavate, India's new finance minister has said government would like to simplify the laws and taxation measures so that all impediments in the part of the speedy development process are removed.

The manifesto has proposed the formulation of a long-term fiscal policy for both direct and indirect taxation to increase revenue and curb corruption. It also favours a steady rise in the ratio of direct and indirect taxes. It has promised some relief for middle income groups by raising the exemption limit for income tax. The new finance minister told Arab Times in an exclusive telephone interview that "our approach will be pragmatic and inflationary pressures on the economy and spiralling prices are to be tackled and this could be done only by building a more

self-reliant economy."

Dandavate said inflationary pressures on the economy was quite high and immediate measures were needed to curb the spiralling price trend. Government will take all the necessary measures to meet its social objective by eradicating poverty. The minister said, "assurance of a more equitable distribution itself is an incentive to production. From this concept, the question of augmenting production would have to be tackled."

Listing the priority of a National Front government, V.P. Singh said efforts would be made to provide a government that an Indian would be proud of.

Besides the issue of emotional unity and integrity, social and economic equality would be a 'focal point for us'. Rural side was the main spring of the economy as it provided the largest employment, he said.

Singh stressed that industry was also dependent on agriculture. "We have decided to increase investment in the rural and agricultural sector," he said.

Singh's rationale for this was that "if agriculture flourished industry also flourishes, we are very clear that for a strong India, we need a strong industrial base," he said and added that industry would be given a positive boost particularly for

agro-based industry and small-scale sector. The youth, the deprived and the weaker sections would be given increasing role to shape the destiny of the country," he said.

The government would apparently seek to ensure that there is no interruption in the growth momentum and that the overall investment climate is kept buoyant.

The budget deficit rose to Rs.79.4 billion (\$5 billion) from 74.8 billion (\$4.6 billion) a year earlier, and is expected to widen even more because of election spending in the current financial year ending on March 31.

The annual exercise of preparing the budget for 1990-91 is going to be delayed. The budget division in the Finance Ministry normally starts this exercise by the end of November. But this year, there is no possibility of its starting before the third week of December. The exercise may be further delayed if the new government decides to take a fresh look at the eighth plan. In that case, official sources say, the new government may go in for a vote-on-account in February and present a full budget later.

In a bid to keep the budget deficit under check, the government has asked all central ministries to increase their savings to such an extent that they can pay the additional instalments of dearness allowance during the

current fiscal year from their existing allocations.

It will be an uphill task for the new government to find resources for the eighth plan without resorting to deficit financing on a large scale.

The country's external debt has risen to about \$55 billion at the end of last year. Inflation, even on the basis of the wholesale price index has not slowed its pace significantly since it touched double digit in 1987-88. Price rise during 1989-90 up to Nov 11 is 6.7 per cent compared to 4.8 per cent in 1988-89 up to Nov 12.

Meanwhile, the stock market staged a comeback after the election of V.P. Singh as prime minister. Businessmen are of the view that the government would follow pragmatic policies on the economic front, giving new impetus to the agro-based industries and the stock market. A recent study has said the modest liberalisation that Rajiv went for during his first two years in office has borne excellent fruit. Real GNP has grown each year by 6 per cent manufacturing output by nearly 9 per cent, exports volumes by 10 per cent (for decades that had been 3 per cent). These are not dry figures for millions of Indians who have started to enjoy colour televisions, cars and other consumer goods they could not have dreamed of ten years ago.

Kamel opens trade fair

BAGHDAD, Dec 8, (Kuna): Iraqi Minister of Industry and Military Production Hussein Kamel inaugurated in the presence of Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khaled here last night Kuwait trade fair within the framework of Kuwaiti commercial week.

Products of 97 companies for both public and private sectors were on display including commodities of such industries as textiles, food stuff, chemical, leather, readymade clothes, furniture as well as construction, electricity and medical items.

The commodities would be on sale directly to visitors of the exhibition upto a ceiling of two million dinars.

Gold strengthens

Dollar mostly higher

LONDON, Dec 8, (Agencies): The dollar closed mostly higher against the major European currencies today. Gold was up.

The dollar closed lower in Frankfurt at 1.7720 German marks against 1.7730 at Thursday's close.

The dollar closed higher at Zurich, at 1.5960 Swiss francs against 1.5935, and also was higher in Paris at 6.0545 French francs against 6.0305, and in Brussels at 37.26 Belgian francs against 37.18.

Banks and markets in Italy were closed for a National holiday.

In London, the pound closed higher at \$1.5785 against \$1.5760. Gold closed higher at Zurich at \$410.50 per ounce against \$404.50 per ounce, and also was higher in London at \$410 per ounce against

\$404.24 per ounce. Silver closed unchanged in Zurich at \$5.60 per ounce, and also was unchanged in London, closing at \$5.59 per ounce.

Dealers said the market was initially thrown by the release of apparently contradictory US jobs data for November.

The numbers showed higher than expected non-farm payrolls in November but a big downward revision for October. A fall in November manufacturing employment was also a surprise.

"The weakness of the (US) economy was confirmed by these numbers," said Tim Fox, an economist at Midland Bank in London. He said the near-term outlook for the dollar remained weak although

the data could give further grounds for the US Central Bank, the Federal Reserve, to ease interest rates.

"The fundamentals point to a cut in the Fed funds rate before the year is out, though the Fed will be looking for confirmation from other indicators, not just these," added Adrian Cunningham, an economist at Bank of America in London.

The dollar closed in London at \$1.7725 West German marks and 144.20 Japanese yen after ending Thursday at 1.7710 and 144.30.

In share markets, London closed higher on buying for a long three-week Christmas account period which starts on Monday.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares ended 16.8 points higher at 2,363.5.

UK plans tax-free benefits

By Tony Mustafa
Overseas Financial Services

THE Financial Times publication Financial Adviser announced on Dec 5 that government sources had confirmed that Peter Lilley (financial secretary to the treasury) will announce radical reforms to life policies before Dec 21, 1989 when Parliament breaks for the season's recess.

The most likely reforms include the abolition of pre-certification and imposition of exit charges on certain life policies.

The Inland Revenue's unfavourable attitude towards life assurance investments was clearly stated in its original consultation document issued in 1988. They quoted in these papers that the present rules "were designed to inhibit the use of investment-oriented life policies as a tax shelter by higher rate tax-payers".

Those tax shelters have provided the foundation to the expatriate investment portfolio for many years and their demise will deprive them of an excellent opportunity to enjoy their offshore savings tax-free once back in the UK.

Whether the tax free savings are used to purchase a house, pay for school fees, provide a pension or supplement your income, the opportunity may not extend past Dec 21.

The introduction of new legislation over the traditional holiday period will mean a chaotic time for the administration departments so if you are contemplating investing into one of the tax shelters do not leave it until the last minute.

There is a wide variety of plans to suit most of the expatriate's requirements including guaranteed plans that do not invest in the international stock markets.

With the Labour Party ahead in the opinion polls the possibility of a return to tax rates between 50 per cent and 70 per cent cannot be ignored. It was only 10 years ago that the highest effective rate of tax was 76 per cent any investment vehicle that shelters your investment income from future tax rate increases is likely to prove invaluable.

Chevron files suit

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec 8, (Reuters): Chevron Corporation said today it had filed a lawsuit seeking to force Pennzoil Company to sell Chevron shares alleged to have been bought illegally and prevent further purchases of the stock until Pennzoil complies with securities law.

Chevron, the number three oil company in the United States, has long been rumoured to be vulnerable to a takeover. It said the legal action was one of several steps taken by its board after the disclosure on Thursday that Pennzoil had acquired 8.8 per cent of Chevron stock.

The complaint was filed in US district court in San Francisco and also charges that Pennzoil, the 24th-largest US energy concern, violated antitrust law, Chevron said.

San Francisco-based Chevron also said it amended its stockholder rights plan, cutting to 10 per cent of the outstanding stock from 20 per cent the level at which its "poison pill" would be implemented, making a hostile takeover prohibitively expensive.

Companies renew contracts

Firms sign Oman oil deals

TOKYO, Dec 8, (Reuters): Japanese and South Korean firms have renewed their term contracts with third parties to buy Oman crude oil in 1990 at a premium of 12 cents a barrel to the official price set by Oman's Ministry of Petroleum and Mines (MPM), oil industry source said.

The price will be reviewed at mid-year. Japanese companies have agreed to buy just over 100,000 barrels per day of Oman crude through Shell International Trading Co Ltd (Sito) next year, slightly down from the 1989 volume, in addition to a small volume from Total-Cie Francaise des Petroles (CFP-Total), the sources said.

Three South Korean firms will buy a total of around 60,000 barrels per day (BPD) of Oman crude from third parties next year, 30,000 BPD through Sito, 20,000 BPD through CFP-Total and 10,000 BPD through C. Itoh and Co Ltd, the sources said.

They said Sito is also expected to conclude term contracts to sell Oman crude to Taiwan and China.

Oman is currently trading on the spot market at a premium of more than 20 cents to the MPM price, which is set retroactively at the end of each month.

Meanwhile, major Japanese drug maker Chugai Pharmaceutical Co said yesterday it has taken control of Gen-Probe Inc., the world's leading diagnostic drug developer in San Diego, California.

The Tokyo-based company said it has purchased 96.5 per cent or about 15.4 million shares of Gen-Probe's outstanding stock. The remainder will be acquired later this month, the company said. In another development major Japanese stainless steel

maker Nippon Kinzoku Co. said yesterday it will set up a joint venture in Taiwan to produce and market stainless steel rims for bicycles.

The Tokyo-based company said the new equally owned company will be established with Far East Machinery Corp. in the spring of 1990.

The new firm will produce 150,000 steel rims per year, starting in late 1990, the company said.

Mitsui Construction Co. of Tokyo said yesterday it has started building high-rise housing in London's fashionable Kensington residential district jointly with major British real estate developer Taylor Woodrow Co.

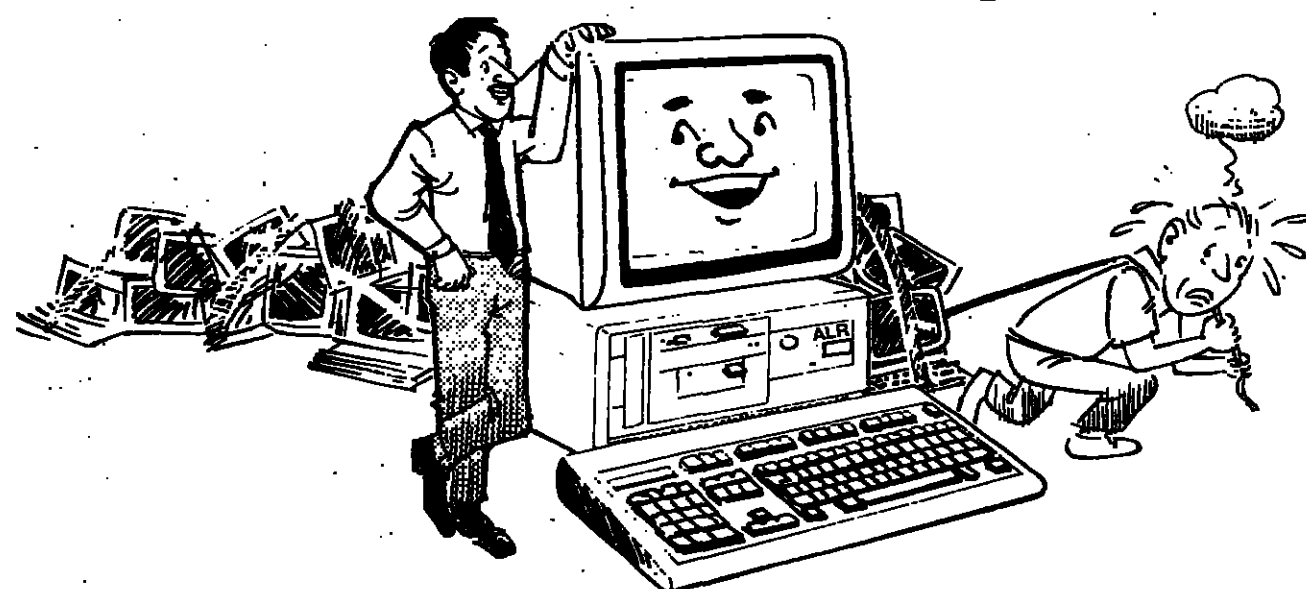
The Tokyo-based company said it is investing £135 million in the first phase of the project, which calls for construction of 13 four- to eight-storey buildings.

Company officials said apartments will be expensive, with their prices ranging £200,000 to £2 million, but they are in great demand from executives of Japanese corporations operating in the European Economic Community.

Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's largest automaker, said today it will install equipment to recover environmentally harmful chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) refrigerants at vehicle servicing centres in Japan next spring.

The equipment, to be installed at about 4,000 service centres, will remove and store the refrigerant while air conditioners are being serviced and then reinstate the gas. The process is expected to significantly reduce CFC gas emissions, Toyota said.

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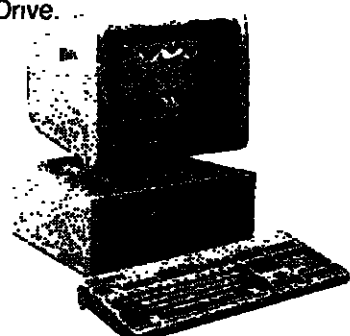
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Fed likely to lower rates

US jobless rate edges up

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (Reuters): The US unemployment rate rose to its highest level in 10 months in November, the government reported today, but an increase in new hirings eased concerns that the economy was slipping into recession.

The jobless rate edged up to 5.4 per cent from 5.3 per cent in October, while the payrolls of government, industrial and service payrolls swelled by a seasonally adjusted 210,000 — larger than most economists had expected.

The dollar initially slipped about half a pfennig against the West German mark and prices of US Treasury bonds advanced following the announcement but the US currency later recovered. Dealers at first took the view that the data dented hopes of lower interest rates but later felt the signals from the figures were mixed.

The loss of 27,000 positions in the manufacturing sector, which shed jobs for the eighth straight month, reflected a severe slump for Detroit's carmakers and other basic industrial companies.

The service sector continued to take up the slack, expanding by 213,000 jobs, up from a gain of 100,000 in October, the department said. Because those jobs generally pay lower salaries than factory position, average hourly wages dropped 0.1 per cent.

Wall Street economists had expected a November unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent, but saw payrolls expanding by only 147,000 jobs after the loss of about 10,000 manufacturing jobs.

A sharp downward revision in October's job growth to 93,000 from 233,000 surprised many traders and prompted expectations that the Federal Reserve Board might lower interest rates to stimulate the economy.

"You have to look at the number in the context of the trend... (which) is actually a little bit softer than what had been expected yesterday," said Hugh Johnson, portfolio strategist at First Albany Corporation.

"That weakness, over time, will pressure the Fed to lower interest rates," he said.

The US Central Bank loosened its grip on credit in early November but has proved reluctant to pump more money into the economy for fear of triggering a fresh round of inflation.

The largest manufacturing job losses last month were in the car industry, where employment fell by 15,000 jobs to 818,000. The electrical equipment sector also suffered a loss of 8,000 jobs, falling to 2.01 million, the department said.

The lacklustre manufacturing figures compounded evidence that basic industry is weakening under the weight of slimmer export gains and sagging US consumer demand.

The total US unemployment rate including the military was 5.3 per cent in November, compared with 5.2 per cent in October.

Call for quicker translations

Japanese technical work

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (AP): The United States needs faster translations of Japanese scientific and technical literature, a Congressman told the National Research Council.

Rep. George E. Brown Jr., a senior member of the House Science Committee, yesterday spoke at a National Research Council symposium on machine translation, an emerging technology that uses computerised equipment to scan and translate foreign-language materials.

"A fundamental part of Japan's economic success has been attributed to its active national effort to collect scientific and technical information from other countries," he said. "The United States does not have a similar co-ordinated effort on a national level."

Brown criticised the administration of President George Bush for downgrading an initiative Congress approved that was aimed at expanding the amount of Japanese technical literature translated into English.

"Unfortunately, as with many other recent efforts at bolstering technological programmes, the administration has provided little funding and less enthusiasm," Brown said.

According to Carol Pompliano, a science committee staff member, the Japanese technical literature unit is currently budgeted at \$425,000 a year, less than half the \$1 million level authorised in the 1986 legislation.

Brown told the symposium the United States does not have enough people who can translate Japanese because the language is not emphasised at US universities.

"If we are to keep up with the flow of technical and scientific information from world-wide sources, our coverage must be aided by machine translation," he said.

Chuck Walrad, a machine translation consultant, noted that while more than 9,000 scientific and technical journals are published in Japan, only about 20 per cent of them are translated into English, and often only after long delays.

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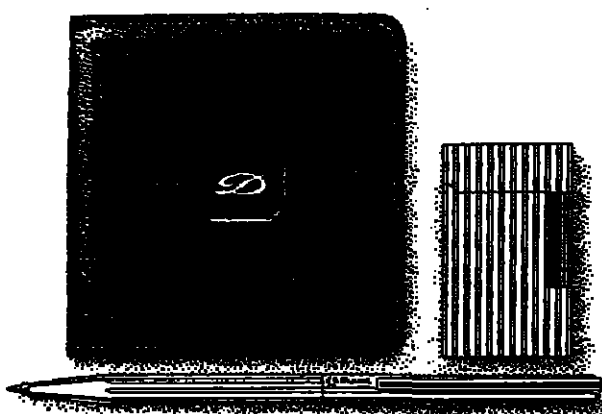
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Sarji to meet officials of Chamber

Malaysia woos Kuwait investors

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

MALAYSIA is looking beyond the frontiers of Kuwait to carve a niche for its products in the Gulf market. In the process, they hope to woo Kuwaiti and Gulf investors. This was stated by A. Sarji Abdul Hamid, secretary-general at Malaysia's Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Sarji, who is heading a 25-man delegation to Kuwait, was speaking to reporters on the eve of the Malaysia Trade Fair, which opens today at the International Hotel.

Despite concerted efforts, Malaysia is yet to attract a substantial amount of investments from the Gulf. Although manufactured goods are exported to

Kuwait and the Gulf, this accounts for a very small overall world percentage.

In 1988, Kuwait's share of Malaysian exports was 17 per cent of Malaysia's global trade. "The balance of trade has always been in favour of Kuwait," said Sarji. In 1988, imports from Kuwait, mainly crude and refined petroleum and fertilisers, were valued at M\$131 million; exports amounted to a mere M\$40.9 million.

Over the years, Malaysian exports have declined. Despite an Investment Guarantee Agreement, signed between Kuwait and Malaysia last year, Malaysia was unable to attract investors.

Sarji admits Gulf investments in Malaysia form an "insig-



A. Sarji

nificant" part of total foreign investments. But they intend to change all this, by embarking on an aggressive policy. The changed strategy aims at dealing with the peculiarities of a capital rich market.

"Investors from, for example,

Japan and America come and examine projects. This is not so with Gulf investors. We now realise that investors here seek feasible proposals, packaged by a co-sponsor in Malaysia. If investors find a project viable, they'll evaluate it and go for it," explained Sarji.

Sarji, who will address an investors seminar on Sunday, hopes to discuss incentives, particularly in the industrial sector.

In addition to perks like tax holidays and no foreign exchange controls, export-oriented industries, located in Malaysia's "free trade zones" enjoy minimum customs control to import raw materials, machinery and equipment. Products exported from the free trade zone are not liable to customs duty.

Power and water is supplied to export-oriented industries at competitive rates.

Foreign investors are also encouraged to "bring expertise" if they so desire.

Sarji believes that lack of follow-up by Malaysian businessmen was one reason for his country's poor performance in the region. He feels that Malaysia could get Kuwaiti investors if contacts were intensified on a "chambers to chambers" basis. He intends to meet officials at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry to explain his country's investment policies.

"We're knocking on the doors (of Kuwaiti investors); sooner or later we'll get our message across," said Sarji.

Kuwait is seen as "a conduit" to push exports to surrounding markets. Sarji said they would like to see more Kuwaiti buyers importing Malaysian products for re-export to neighbouring countries.

This is one aim of putting on the Malaysia Trade Fair. Products ranging from paper and paper products to canned food, textiles and furniture will be on display at the fair.

The trade delegation includes Haji Saleh Bin Jaafer, senior director of Malaysia Industrial Development Authority and Haron Siraj, director of Ministry of Trade and Industry. Yesterday's press conference was also attended by the Malaysian Ambassador in Kuwait, Wan Hussain bin Wan Mustafa.

Thatcher will reject social charter

EEC praises East bloc reform but row looms

STRASBOURG, France, Dec 8, (Reuters): European Economic Community leaders hailed the reforms in Eastern Europe today but a row loomed over Bonn's determination to get a statement backing the right of East and West Germany to decide on reunification.

EEC diplomats said a draft summit declaration, to be published at the end of the meeting on Saturday, included strong words of support for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and pledged closer ties with countries shaking off 40 years of communist rule.

But a West German proposal to include a paragraph referring explicitly to "the German people

recovering their unity by self-determination" came under fire from France and Italy.

Diplomats said they wanted the statement to replace mention of self-determination with the phrase "the free expression of popular will".

Italy and France sought this softer formula to hold out the possibility that other European states involved in World War Two should have a say in the eventual reunification of West and East Germany.

The leaders of Italy and France have both just met Gorbachev, who has deep reservations about Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plan for German reun-

ification.

EEC sources said French President Francois Mitterrand, the summit host and chairman, might have to bow to West Germany's demands in order to secure Kohl's backing for quick moves towards EEC monetary union.

Mitterrand postponed a planned discussion of monetary union — on which he thought he had struck a deal with Kohl on the eve of the summit — in favour of a debate over lunch on the dizzying pace of change in Eastern Europe.

Kohl, clearly anxious to reassure his fellow leaders about Ger-

man ambitions, said during the lunch there could be no question of changing the Oder-Neisse line marking Poland's post-war Western border, EEC sources said.

It was the first time that Kohl had publicly pledged his government's recognition of the border, although he had come under strong pressure to do so during his visit to Poland last November.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher set a combative tone yesterday ahead of the summit in Strasbourg, telling Parliament she would reject a planned social charter backed by other EEC members.

Economic reforms

Poland close to IMF pact

WARSAW, Dec 8, (Reuters): Poland, experts say, is close to getting an IMF agreement in principle for plans to transform its economy along Western lines, a senior government official said today.

Deputy Finance Minister Janusz Sawicki said Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, would visit Warsaw this weekend to discuss final details of a "letter of intent" or draft agreement.

"If he accepts the main directions of Poland's economic policy, the letter of intent will be issued," Sawicki told a news conference.

The IMF's seal of approval for the economic reforms set out by Poland's Solidarity-led government is crucial for clinching a \$1 billion loan from the West and other Western funding.

A government source said on Tuesday the letter could be ready for Camdessus to sign during his visit but Sawicki said he expected the accord to be signed next week.

"A delay of two or three days is not so important for a document which designs the whole economic policy for the next year," he said.

The government has pledged to cut spending, tighten tax discipline and limit pay increases to try to cut an inflation rate of almost 450 per cent and rescue the economy after four decades of communist central planning.

Seminar on Arab gas resources

DOHA, Dec 8, (Opecna): Seminar on gas resources in Arab countries, sponsored by the Qatari Ministry of Finance and Petroleum, starts here Sunday, ending December 14.

The gathering, which has been organised in co-operation with the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapex), will assess the situation of natural gas in Arab countries, including reserves, production, processing and domestic and foreign marketing.

The meeting is aimed at collecting information on progress being made in each Arab country in the utilisation of natural gas by various economic sectors, in addition to future plans including inter-Arab co-operation.

The seminar, to be attended by representatives from Oapex member countries, will also focus on the use of natural gas as feedstock in oil refineries, petrochemical industries, cement, power generating plants and food industries.

The Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPEC) will present a number of research papers dealing with the development of the giant North Gas field and prospects of the natural gas industry in Qatar. Oapex will present two papers on the Arab gas industry, while the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (Goic) will present a paper on the use of gas in mineral industries and its role in the Gulf region.

The seminar will also be attended by international oil companies and a number of organisations, including the Oxford Institute of Energy Studies, the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Statoil of Norway, Bechtel of US and Technip of France, in addition to specialised Arab agencies.

Kuwait to set up oil depot

BANGKOK, Dec 8, (Opecna): Kuwait has proposed the setting up of a large oil depot in Thailand's southern region, according to Phisit Pakkasem, secretary-general of the Thai National and Social Development Board.

Pakkasem confirmed that the Kuwaiti offer had been accepted by the government.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa is scheduled to arrive here on Dec 21 at the head of a delegation to inspect the areas to be developed under Thailand's southern seaboard project. The oil depot is part of the proposed scheme.

The high-cost project would enable Thailand to become a major distribution centre for petroleum products in the Far East region.

English as business language

IBS to hold symposium

KUWAIT, Dec 8, (Kuna): Under the patronage of Kuwait's Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, the Institute of Banking Studies will convene the first symposium on the teaching of English as a banking language (Toebia) on December 13-14.

In a statement to Kuna, Dr Abdullah Muhana, IBS director, said that the purpose for holding this symposium is to provide specialists interested in the teaching of English for specific purposes in general, and for banking purposes in particular, with the opportunity to discuss the most recent theories and trends in the field.

Dr Muhana hoped that the outcome of the symposium will enrich the process of acquiring knowledge and the exchange of experiences in the field of teaching English, testing and evaluation.

The key-note speakers in the symposium are Professor John Swales, head of English Language Institute and professor of linguistics at Michigan University, US, Dr Richard Allwright who is a senior lecturer in linguistics at Lancaster University, UK.

Other papers will also be presented by a number of specialists in this field from Kuwait and other countries. These papers focus on English as a business language, with particular reference to banking, and on the methods of teaching English and the preparation of qualified specialised teachers in this area. A number of papers will focus on the area of testing and measurement in a banking context.

A large audience comprising bank senior officials, teachers of English from the English Department and the Language Centre of Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has been invited to attend. Other guests with special interests in the area have also been invited.

Dr Muhana further added that the English Language Unit of the IBS has prepared two papers for the symposium. The first is "The Toebia between myth and reality", and the other is "The meaning of the learning of English for banking purposes, a learner centred approach".



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Japan posts highest GNP growth in 16 years

TOKYO, Dec 8, (UPI): Japan's gross national product for the third quarter posted the highest growth in 16 years and government officials predicted the nation's economic expansion, which has already entered its fourth year, will be sustained for months to come.

The Economic Planning Agency announced yesterday Japan's GNP for the July-September period grew 2.9 per cent over the preceding quarter or an annualized rate of 12.2 per cent.

Agency officials said the expansion was the highest since the January-March quarter of 1978, when the nation's GNP posted a quarterly growth of 3.9 per cent and an annualized rate of 16.6 per cent amid the government's programme for the "redevelopment of the Japanese archipelago."

"The economy has remained in a steady upward trend the past few years, but there are no signs that the economy is overheating," said an analyst of the agency.

"The economic expansion has already continued for 36 months, and it now appears certain that the current sustained growth will break a postwar record growth span (of 42 months set in the 1950s)," the official said.

The agency officials said it is certain that the nation's economic growth for fiscal 1989, ending next March 31, will surpass the government's goal of 4.0 per cent and possibly reach 5.0 per cent.

The agency's preliminary report said Japan's real GNP — the total value of goods and services produced — stood at 350.52 trillion yen (\$2.43 trillion).

Airline plans four new destinations

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8, (AP): Malaysia Airlines plans to start flying to Cairo, Rome, Vienna and Beijing next year, its managing director said Wednesday.

Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman said talks on the flights between Malaysian transport officials and their counterparts from Egypt, Italy, Austria and China are under way or will begin soon.

The airline also plans to begin service on Jan 1 to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and on Jan 5 to Honolulu, Abdul Aziz told reporters after witnessing the signing of an air services agreement between Malaysia and New Zealand.

The airline initially would operate twice weekly to both cities, he said.

Transport ministry secretary-general Mohamad Nor Abdul Ghani signed the agreement for the Malaysian government, while New Zealand was represented by high commissioner R.J. Jermyn.

Under the agreement, Malaysia Airlines will be allowed to fly direct to Auckland using a Boeing 747.

Abdul Aziz said the airline would fly each Wednesday to New Zealand, and more flights might be added next year if demand warrants.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Dec 8, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

	Buying	Selling
US dollar	0.2625	0.2600
Sterling	0.4648	0.4678
DM	0.16725	0.16700
S Fr	0.18596	0.18680
S Fr	0.008044	0.008150
Yen	0.0022673	0.0022778
Yen	0.0020512	0.0020602
Bah. dir.	0.74457	0.74700
LA. Dir.	0.0080525	0.0080660
S. Riyal	0.07850	0.079178
Q. Riyal	0.08120	0.081571
O. Riyal	0.76803	0.77142

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Dec 8, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-1/16	8-1/16
3 months	8-1/16	8-1/16
6 months	8-1/16	8-1/16
1 year	8-1/16	8-1/16

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.600
Sri Lankan rupee	7.500
Pakistani rupee	13.900
Bangladesh taka	9.110
US dollar	29680
Pound sterling	46850
UAE dirham	08078
Deutsche mark	16840
Japanese yen	002068

Japan to give \$1.1b loan to Indonesia

TOKYO, Dec 8, (UPI): Japan will provide Indonesia with a long-term, low-interest loan totalling 159.011 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) in fiscal 1989, ending next March 31, the government said yesterday.

The fund will be part of a \$2 billion package pledged by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita during his visit to Indonesia in May.

Japan is the largest aid donor for Indonesia and the new loan will bring to about 1.79 trillion yen (\$12.4 billion) the total amount of funds provided by Japan, government officials said.

The new loan will be used to finance 10 industrial projects, including construction of railways and thermal power plants, and improvement of the socio-economic structure as well as

improving the country's balance of payments position.

The loan will be repayable over a 30-year period after a 10-year grace period at an annual interest rate of 2.5 per cent, the officials said.

Meanwhile major Japanese department store operator Sogo Co. has announced it has purchased Gama Holdings Private Co., a Malaysian retail store chain on Penang island, for 39.4 million Malaysian dollars.

The company said Gama Holdings owns four department stores and supermarkets which posted total sales of 92 million Malaysian dollars in 1988.

Gama Holdings is Sogo's fifth overseas sales base, following ones in Hong Kong, Bangkok, Singapore and Taipei, company officials said.

Mitsui Mining to build plant in Malaysia

The officials said Sogo also plans to open a representative office in Kuala Lumpur in preparation for the opening of a department store there.

A real estate firm affiliated with the Saison group has announced the signing of a contract to acquire expertise to produce artificial snow from Permasnow Ltd., based in Brisbane, Australia.

Seiyo Corp., based in Tokyo, said artificial snow produced with the Australian technology will be used for two artificial ski sites it plans to build in the neighbourhood of Tokyo over the next five years.

Artificial snow, named Permasnow, is a mixture of water and a chemical and will not melt indoors below 15 degrees Celsius (59 F), company officials said.

Another Japanese firm, affiliated

with Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. of Osaka, has signed a similar contract with the Austrian firm, Kyodo News Service said, quoting industry sources.

In another development a Japanese fast-food restaurant chain has announced the signing of a franchise agreement with Sizzler Restaurants International, based in Los Angeles, to bring economically-priced US steak dining to Japan.

Royal, based in the southern Japanese city of Fukuoka, said it made the move to take advantage of the liberalisation of beef imports scheduled for fiscal 1991.

Royal officials said it will open five steak houses on a trial basis with more to follow if they are successful.

Mitsui Mining and Smelting Co.

announced on Wednesday plans to build a 7 billion yen (\$49 million) plant in Malaysia next year to make copper foils for semiconductor substrates for supply to local Japanese chip producers.

Mitsui, a major Japanese nonferrous smelter with the largest market share in zinc, said it will start building the plant next May in the Shalam industrial complex in Selangor on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. Operations will be in August 1991, with an initial workforce of 110.

The plant will be located on a 160,000-square-metre plot with an initial production of 2,000 tons of thin copper foil annually. Mitsui set up a wholly-owned subsidiary in Malaysia

last May with a capitalisation of 20 million Malaysian dollars.

Meanwhile Smithkline Beecham, a London-based major pharmaceutical maker, has announced it will establish a subsidiary in Japan on Jan 1 in a bid to boost sales to Japanese medical institutions.

The new firm, capitalised at 3.2 billion yen (\$22 million) will be 90 per cent owned by Smithkline Beecham and 10 per cent by Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co. of Japan. Annual projected sales are 50-60 billion yen (\$350-420 million), the company said.

Smithkline Beecham was set up last July in a merger of Smithkline Beecham Corp. of the United States and Beecham Group PLC of Britain, both major drug makers.

Egypt faces foreign exchange squeeze

Total debt is about \$50b

CAIRO, Dec 8, (Reuters): Egypt is running into a tight foreign exchange squeeze this month as foreign creditors demand repayment on long-outstanding debts and threaten to cut fresh funds, economists and foreign experts say.

By the middle of this month it has to pay about \$50 million in repayment on US military credits or risk the suspension of fresh US aid.

It also has to appease the French, worried Egypt might be "robbing Peter to pay Paul" by

paying Washington and not Paris.

Earlier this month, the French government held up a shipment of 150,000 tonnes of wheat flour by refusing to provide export guarantees until a row over debt repayments was resolved.

"All countries are squeezing Egypt for the same kind of thing at the moment," one trade official said.

Egypt stopped most debt repayments 18 months ago and has to wait a deal with the International Monetary Fund before

it can reschedule its debt. Total debt is about \$50 billion.

"They are only paying those debts that are absolutely of crucial importance," one diplomat said.

Economists say it has managed to stay afloat by juggling creditors and using creative accounting to maintain supplies of essential commodities like wheat — vital to a country whose people depend on subsidised bread as the staple diet.

The latest squeeze started when Egypt again fell foul of the

US Brook Amendment, under which fresh aid is suspended to countries more than a year behind on debt repayments.

Cairo had staved off the effects of the amendment by using funds already held in a special account in the United States.

By late November those funds ran dry and it had to make its first new payment of some \$5 million. It will have to keep making payments of around the level of this month's \$50 million every month until an IMF deal is reached.

18pc cut in dollar rate for importers

NICOSIA, Dec 8, (Reuters): Iran announced yesterday it was reducing the cost of dollars sold to importers by about 18 per cent.

The move, which amounts to an upward revaluation of the rial for some purposes, signals a considerable success in attracting currency trade away from the black market to official dealings at a "competitive rate".

It should also help curb inflation by making imports cheaper.

Speaking on Tehran radio, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli said the new rate of 800 rials per dollar would take effect tomorrow.

The "competitive rate" applies to imports by a growing number of state-related enterprises and purchases of dozens of items by private businessmen. It started at 1,000 to the dollar on Oct 8 and had been set daily at \$975 by the Central Bank since October 24.

The official rate, used for government dealings and subsidised basic commodities, remains about 72 rials to the dollar.

Adeli said the stronger rate for the rial reflected the balance of supply and demand for foreign exchange.

"It will have a very positive effect because it will reduce the cost of production and create grounds for higher employment, production and supply, leading to reduced prices," he said.

Introduction of the new rate two months ago has been the most important step by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government to bring order to an economy emerging from a decade of war and revolutionary upheaval.

Ali Pakpour, a London-based Iranian foreign exchange dealer, said the rate announced yesterday was fair for now and might go down even further as the government's financial situation improved.

"They have realised that they should make it easier for the people, but one should not expect a return to the 70-rial dollar," he told Reuters by telephone.

He said black market dealings had declined greatly since the Central Bank began dealing at the "competitive rate."

Before the 1979 Islamic revolution, all Iranians could buy foreign exchange at the official rate without restriction from the government with cash or petrodollars.

Tehran residents say prices of some commodities, such as butter and cooking oil, have declined over the past two months but there has not been an overall fall.

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the Central Bank would introduce another exchange rate called "service rate" on Sunday.

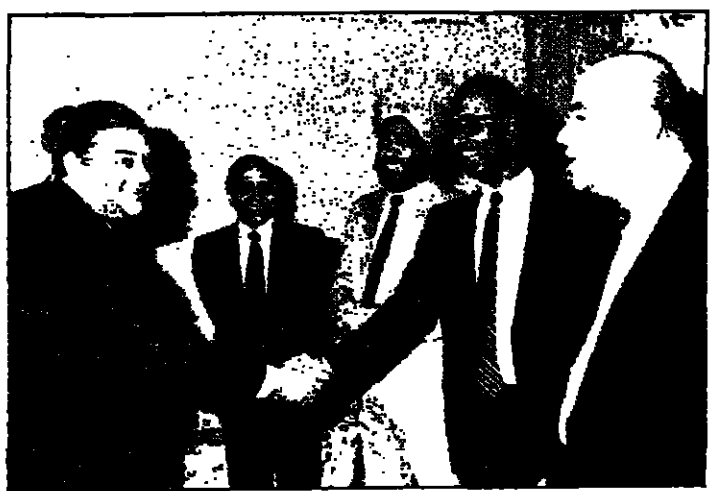
It will apply to travellers and those who need foreign exchange for studies or medical care abroad but do not qualify to buy at the official rate.

State banks would also buy foreign currency from individuals and enterprises at the service rate, the radio said.



Air-India reception

Air-India Manager, Kuwait, P. R. Kanga hosted a dinner-reception to welcome the new Indian Ambassador Arun Kumar Budhiraja at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Al staff and leading Indian businessmen attended. Picture shows Budhiraja (second right) with P. Kanga (third left) and guests. Right: Budhiraja meets M. Mathews, leading Indian businessman and IAC president as guests look on.



Historic air pact

Air link will bring a surge of immigrants

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 8, (Reuters): Israel's national airline El Al said yesterday it had agreed to set up direct air links with the Soviet Union but Moscow denied an accord had been signed.

Israel, which has not had diplomatic ties with Moscow for 22 years, hopes direct flights will make it more difficult for Jews who leave the Soviet Union on Israeli visas to announce during stopovers in Europe that they will instead seek a more prosperous life elsewhere.

El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said the company and the Soviet airline Aeroflot signed an agreement in Moscow on Wednesday that each would begin flying weekly between Tel Aviv and Moscow soon after the start of the year.

But in Moscow, an official at the Ministry of Civil Aviation — which is in overall charge of Aeroflot — denied an agreement had been signed.

"These are only rumours. It's not the first time they've said this. In reality no agreement between El Al and Aeroflot has been signed," a ministry official told Reuters. He declined to comment further.

Klieman had no explanation for the Soviet denial. "El Al management and representatives of Aeroflot have signed an understanding and commercial agreement. An exact date for the inauguration of flights has not yet been determined," he told Reuters.

It said 9,495 Jews arrived in Vienna, their main transit point, raising the total this year to 55,465 compared with 20,082 in the whole of last year.

Israel complains that fewer than 15 per cent choose to settle in the Jewish state but hopes that new quotas imposed by the United States and direct air links will bring a surge of immigrants.

US, Moscow to exchange farm teams

MOSCOW, Dec 8, (AP): The United States and the Soviet Union today signed an agreement on the exchange of agricultural experts over the next two years.

The agreement calls for the exchange of teams in the field of forestry, agricultural economics, agricultural science and food processing. US Undersecretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder said.

The protocol renews and expands an agreement signed in 1973 on agricultural co-operation between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Crowder, who is also negotiating a renewal of the US-Soviet long-term grain agreement, said the Malta summit between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev had helped in finalising the agriculture agreement.

He said the breakthroughs in Malta underscored US support for Gorbachev's attempts to revitalize the economy of the Soviet Union, suffering from widespread shortages of food, fuel and consumer goods.

"President Bush has targeted the June 1990 summit for completion of a bilateral trade agreement between the United States and the USSR, which is a prerequisite to granting most favoured nation status to the Soviet Union," Crowder said.

Banks record \$744m loss

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (UPI): The nation's banks lost \$744 million in the July-September quarter, mainly because they set aside billions in reserve money to offset bad loans to the Third World, the government said yesterday.

But L. William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., expressed less concern about the quarterly loss — the first since 1987 — than about the increase in loans to the notoriously cyclical real estate development business.

Banks could become dangerously overexposed in the future if the bankers do not take more caution in real estate lending, he said.

China has been offered \$200 million worth of export credits, Jordan \$50 million and Syria \$20 million. Algeria has accepted between \$100-200 million and Iraq and Libya have been offered \$300 million worth each.

"These are all implementing our policy of getting into new markets," Ozkan said. The export credit offers follow Turkey's recent current account surplus, unexpected in a country which has been in deficit since 1973.

After last year's \$1.5 billion surplus, Turkey expects at least another billion dollars' surplus this year.

Central Bank foreign currency reserves are now at some \$4 billion, nearly double the end-1988 figure.

New export markets are vital to spur Turkey's foreign trade, stagnant due to a low lira depreciation against other hard currencies this year and the phasing out of tax rebates.

But bankers say exports have performed well despite such negative factors. A two per cent fall in the first nine-month exports over the same 1988 period is less than feared.

Eximbank credits will also serve to diversify Turkey's export markets now dominated by the European Economic Community (EEC) countries, bankers said.

Gold medals for 4 Indians

Good response to trade fair

NEW DELHI, Dec 8: The India International Trade Fair ended last week, with commerce secretary and chairman of Trade Fair Authority A.N. Varma claiming very encouraging response from participants as well as business visitors who placed export orders.

The National Small Industries Corporation has reported export orders worth Rs 400 million for a wide range of products like industrial machinery, electronic products, domestic appliances and kitchenware, Varma said in his speech at the concluding function.

Besides, serious enquiries have been received for a variety of products from overseas buyers. The pavilions of Punjab and Haryana have also reported business worth several millions of rupees for industrial machinery, auto parts, cycle parts, electronic products, and furnishings.

Other state pavilions — Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh — have done substantial retail sales of textiles, handicrafts and certain consumer items, Varma said.

Participants in the international sector have also expressed their satisfaction over the achievement of their objective of participation. Most of them, including major and regular participants like Italy have already indicated their intention to return next year on the same or even larger scale, Varma stated.

According to a survey of the business visitors to the fair, which commenced on Nov 14, around 50 per cent were decision-makers from senior management. Interestingly, he said, a good majority of them were from companies employing less than 100 persons, confirming the appeal and importance of the trade fair to small and medium scale entrepreneurs.

Many of the participants have reported substantive business negotiations including orders, import transactions and important contracts of new collaboration arrangements, Varma said. The twin objective of facilitating transfer of new technologies and improving export capabilities while creating greater public awareness of these topical subjects, have been largely fulfilled, Varma claims.

Gold medals were given to four Indian participants for their impressive display at the fair.

Varma gave away the awards to their representatives. These participants were: State Trading Corporation, Coal India Ltd, Ministry of Communications, and the Haryana government.

The second prize — silver medals — were given to Madhya Pradesh government and the Union Department of Tourism.

Commendation certificates were bagged by Assam government, All-India Electronic Watches and Clock Manufacturers Association, Confederation of Engineering Industry, Essential Oils Association of India, Perfumes and Flavours Association of India, Ministry of Environment, Hyderabad Alloy Ltd, Para Exports, Spices Board, Titan Watches, Ministry of Defence, Delhi Development Authority, Housing and Urban Development Corporation and ITC Ltd.

Participants in the international sector were given commendation certificates for their high class display and contribution to the success of the fair.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) Dec 8						
	Pr. Close	Open	Close			
ACC	332.50	328	329			
Alcan Chem	—	—	—			
Alcan Ind	—	—	—			
Alcan Fab	—	—	—			
Ashtok Ley	94.50	93	94.25			
Asia Paint	206.25	205	210			
Asia Pulp	45	44	43			
Auto Corp	65	62.50	63			
Nat Index	395.97	395.78	395.78			
Bajaj Auto	358.75	357.50	367.50			
Bar Rayon	692.50	690	695			
Blow Plast	—	—	—			
Bom Dye	185	183	184			
BK Bond	110	109	110			
Burr Well	85	80	85			
Cashmere	—	—	—			
Cen Enka	3400	3325	3425			
Index for 06/12*	—	—	—			
Cen Spg	2800	2790	2860			
Colgate	187.50	186.25	192.50			
Crompt Gr	700	690	700			
DCM	14	13	14			
Deep Fert	30	29.75	30			
Dunlop	73.75	73	73.75			
El Hotels	61	61	65			
Escorts	80	79	78.75			
Eskayef	118.75	117.50	117.50			
Essar Spg	28.25	28	27.75			
Food Spl	112	110	111.75			
Forbes	50	48.75	51.25			
Gar Poly	52.50	53	55			
Glass Ind	99	99	99			
GNFC	40	39.25	39.75			
Grasim	119.50	117.50	121			
GE Spg	49.75	49	49.75			
GEFC	192.50	190	193.75			
Guj Alld	76	75	76			
Guj Heavy	11	10	11			
Hero Honda	119	118	119			
Hindalco	1130	1120	1250			
Hind Lever	106.50	105	105.50			
Hind Motors	141.25	141.25	141.25			
Hind Pulp	24	24	25.50			
Hindustan	275	268.75	277.50			
Ingersoll	230	227.50	235			
ITC	65.50	65	64.75			
Ind Org	48	48	47			
Ind Rayon	88	87	87			
Indrol	193.75	190	195			
JK Syn	62.50	60	62.50			
Kin Eng	147.50	145	140			
Kir Cumm	22.50	21.25	22.50			
KSB Pumps	200	197.50	202.50			
Sesa Goa	70	70	79			
Shaw Wall	—	—	—			
Shri Cam	—	—	—			
Shri Filo	65	63	66.25			
Siemens	83	83	86			
SKF	1330	1300	1360			
Steel Ind	57	56	57.25			
St Mills	535	530	520			
Tata Ind	87.50	92.50	87.50			
Tata Chem	117	117	117			
Tata Pulp	300.50	380	380			
Telco	1062.5	1052.5	1060			
Thamp Agro	—	—	—			
Tisco	116.25	113.50	115.25			
Vallab	141.25	138.75	138.75			
Varela	22.50	21.25	22.50			
Vollart	910	900	920			
Wazirco	20.50	20.25	23.25			
Zenith	58	58	57			
Zuari Agro	60	60	60			

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.



McCartney thumbs-up



British rock star Paul McCartney gives the thumbs-up with his wife Linda during a press conference on Dec 7. McCartney is in Toronto on his world tour. Left: McCartney works his way through his old hit, 'Jet.' (Reuters wirephoto)

Janet moves up with Rhythm Nation

Billy Joel tops pop singles chart in US

NEW YORK, (AP): Billy Joel made it to the top of the pop singles record chart in the United States Wednesday with his new hit "We Didn't Start the Fire."

The disc was third a week ago. Phil Collins jumped to second spot on the Cash Box magazine chart, up from fifth last week, with "Another Day in Paradise," while "Angelia" by Richard Marx slipped one notch to third.

Last week's number one hit, "The Way That You Love Me" by Paula Abdul, tumbled to fifth. The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (3) We Didn't Start the Fire — Billy Joel (Columbia).
2. (5) Another Day in Paradise — Phil Collins (Atlantic).

3. (2) Angelia — Richard Marx (EMI).
4. (6) Back to Life — Soul 2 Soul (Virgin).

5. (1) The Way That You Love Me — Paula Abdul (Virgin).
6. (7) Don't Know Much — Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville (Elektra).

7. (10) With Every Beat of My Heart — Taylor Dayne (Arista).
8. (13) Rhythm Nation — Janet Jackson (A and M).

9. (11) Don't Close Your Eyes — Kix (Atlantic).
10. (4) Love Shack — B52 (Reprise).

1. (1) If Tomorrow Never Comes — Garth Brooks (Capitol).
2. (5) I've Been Loved By The Best — Don Williams (RCA).

3. (2) The Lonely Side of Love — Patty Loveless (MCA).
4. (2) Yellow Roses — Dolly Parton (Columbia).

5. (9) A Woman In Love — Ronnie Milsap (RCA).
6. (11) Out of Your Shoes — Lorie Morgan (RCA).

7. (14) There Goes My Heart Again — Holly Dunn (Warner Brothers).
8. (10) Bayou Boys — Eddy Raven (Universal).

9. (11) The Eve of the War — Jeff Wayne, a remix of the 1978 hit album that set H. G. Wells' "War of the Worlds" novel to music, jumped three places to the top of the British pop singles chart.

"You Got It (the right stuff)" by New Kids on the Block dropped to second place after one week in the top slot.

The fast-selling "Get a Life" by Soul II Soul entered the chart in third place, ahead of "Lambada" by Kaoma.

The only other newcomer, "When You Come Back To Me" by Australian teen-age idol Jason Donovan, entered the chart in 10th place.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's places in parentheses:

1. (4) The Eve of the War — Jeff Wayne (CBS).
2. (1) You Got It (the right stuff) — New Kids on the Block (CBS).

3. (2) Get a Life — Soul II Soul (10 Records).
4. (6) Lambada — Kaoma (CBS).

5. (2) Don't Know Much — Linda Ronstadt and Aaron Neville (Elektra).
6. (5) What The World Is Waiting For — Stone Roses (Silvertone).

7. (8) Homey Girl — UB40 (DEP International).
8. (3) All Around The World — Lisa Stansfield (Arista).

9. (9) Pacific State — Bob State (ZTT).
10. (7) When You Come Back To Me — Jason Donovan (PWL).

Turkish law lax

Wildlife in peril

VEZIRKOPRU, Turkey (Reuters): The crack of a rifle shot shattered the snow-muffled silence of Black Sea mountains as 15 wild boars wandered into a pine forest glade.

The hunter missed and the animals charged for cover before a blizzard blotted out the terrain.

Recklessness was forgotten over glasses of "target water," or cognac, in front of a roaring fire near Vezirkopru, a major boar hunting area 350 km (195 miles) northeast of Ankara.

About 550 km (300 miles) to the east, near the rugged border with the Soviet Union, American hunter Jack Fiske achieved a world record for killing an Asian brown bear last September.

Turkey, with a variety of animals, including thousands of boars, 2,500 brown bears, panther, wild goat, deer, wolf, and many game birds, is a hunters' paradise from the sunny Aegean coast to peaks near Iran, Iraq and the Soviet Union.

But hunters say the government is not doing enough to protect wildlife in a country where shotguns abound in remote villages and hunting, especially of deer, is a way of life.

"If we do not have a law under which Turkish hunters have to pass an examination the future of game animals will be very dark," Nihar Turan, a member of the Agriculture Ministry's affiliated Central Hunting Committee, told Reuters.

During the Vezirkopru hunt, a village beater with a shotgun recued a large owl with pellets in the neck and wing. It died later while being taken to Ankara for treatment.

"There are four million hunters in Turkey who pay 10,000 lira (\$4) for licences. I really don't know how many more are without them," said

hunter Ayhan Karapars. "Real Turkish hunters take every precaution. In 25 years I have heard of only one incident of the accidental shooting of another hunter," said Karapars, a television executive.

Sabit Tartan, game and wildlife director at the General Directorate of Forestry, said about 400 foreigners visited Turkey each year to hunt, mainly Europeans seeking boar and Americans after bear.

Official hunting rules do not permit the killing at any time of some game such as red deer and eagles. Bear can be shot only between August and March but it is open season throughout the year for wild boar, wolf, panther and other animals.

Penalties for killing protected wildlife range up to about one month in jail and a three million lira (\$1,300) fine, officials said.

Tourists

"The Artvin area, near the Soviet border, is open for tourists to hunt bear. Elsewhere it is forbidden," Tartan said.

Fiske, from Pennsylvania, made his certified record kill of a three metre (nine feet, four inches) bear weighing 365 kilos (803 pounds) and with a 66 cm (26 inches) skull, at Yusufeli near Artvin.

He told Reuters he tracked for four days before finding the bear, which compared with the previous record of a bear with a skull size of just over 61 cm (24 inches) killed in the Soviet Union in 1977.

Hunters pay \$50 a day to hunt bear, boar and wild goat. Killing a boar costs nothing but hunters must pay an extra \$2,000 for a bear and up to \$1,000 for a wild goat.

"This is cheap. They were charging this amount for a bear in Yugoslavia 30 years ago," said a Brazilian hunter

in Vezirkopru. "Most foreigners who hunt boar are either diplomats or other foreign residents in Turkey, a mainly Muslim nation whose religion forbids the eating of pork."

"Locals also kill boars with the main aim to protect their animals and crops. Some of them sell dead boars to firms in big cities to make dog food for export," Turan said.

Hunting boar, like bear, can be a dangerous occupation. The animals, weighing up to 150 kilos (330 pounds), should be shot in the shoulder blade area to ensure a clean kill.

"Make sure you have a tree within easy reach to climb in case a wounded boar charges," said a West German diplomat, one of five hunters spread out in a semi-circle over 800 metres (yards) as beaters tried vainly to drive boars in their direction.

After-hunt talk focused on the inevitable big ones that got away, scrapes with wounded boar and rifles.

Permits

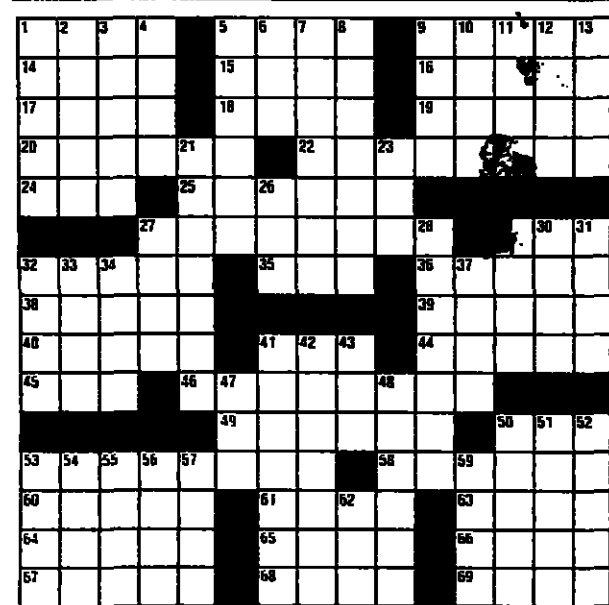
"Many Turks hunt only with shotguns because permits for rifles are limited," said Karapars.

Priorities for rifles are high in Turkey, which has had a recent history of extremist political violence, ranging from seven to 10 million lira (\$3,000 to \$4,300).

Turan said a draft bill, including examinations for hunters, was with Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut. But he believed that as with similar previous drafts it would not pass parliament because of a probable outcry from rural areas.

Ismail Sercan, director for 300,000 hectares (770,000 acres) of mainly pine, beech and oak forest in Vezirkopru, said he had only 51 paid village guards for the area.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Spring happening
 - Arroyo's relative
 - Golfing name of fame
 - Lasso
 - Lovely of tennis
 - Liquid measure, in Leeds
 - Nimbus
 - Money in Milano
 - Once more
 - Sounds like: gymnastics equipment
 - Sounds like: every evening
 - Capp's "Abner"
 - More inquisitive
 - High-five
 - Alias, for short
 - Wall hanging
 - Bashtul
 - Relish
 - Collar
 - attachment
 - Betwixt
 - A tenth part
 - Coterie
 - Jargon
 - United
 - Bears
 - Evening event
 - Top notch
 - Sounds like: horse laughs
 - Sounds like: prerogative
 - Greek colony, of old
 - Robe for Cato
 - Webster
 - North, in Nuevo Laredo
 - Hessian river
 - Peter, Paul and Mary, e.g.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BAD EBBSS OSSIA
APIS RAIL VIAN
BOXTURTLE ELIC
ERIES OLDER KTS
STEPHENS ALEC
PAL DRILLED
RECESSIVE EMOTE
ALA ANAME TUE
FIRST CLERKSHIP
TAPIOCA LEE
ETRE STELLATE
APT SEATO LEWES
RABBI JERRY CANS
CLARO ALTO TREE
HOGAN REID ETS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WATCH THOSE SPOTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.
NORTH
♠ Q J
♥ 7 6 2
♦ A J 8 5 3 2
♣ 10 5

WEST
♠ 8 6 4 2
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ Q 10 7 4
♣ 3

EAST
♠ 9 7 5 3
♥ K 4
♦ K 9
♣ J 8 6 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K 10
♥ A 10 8 3
♦ 6
♣ A K Q 9 7

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠
As youngsters, we were taught to "take care of the pennies and the dollars will take care of themselves." That has stood us in good stead at the bridge table, where husbanding small assets can reap rich rewards.

On this hand from a team match, both teams sailed into three no trump on similar auctions. At both tables West led the six of spades—second best—to show no particular interest in the suit.

At one table, declarer took the spade and immediately went after clubs, playing the suit from the top. When West showed out on the second round of the suit, declarer had only eight fast winners, and there the total remained when the defenders refused to make any major error. Down one.

At the other table, declarer realized four club tricks would be enough to land the contract. Since the combined 10 9 in dummy and the closed hand were equals with the jack, declarer won the opening lead on the table and led the ten of clubs.

Had East covered, declarer would have four club tricks and his contract. East desperately followed low in the hope declarer would err, but South ran the ten and, when that won, finessed the nine of clubs as well. As a result, declarer made an overtrick in a contract where the opposing South failed by a trick.



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B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will have an exciting day and should try to keep calm throughout. You must not allow your judgement to be clouded by extraneous considerations. Try to enjoy your leisure to the full and ensure you get enough rest. Be generous.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will have something to be pleased about, but you must not let it go to your head. Try to avoid having a late night. Take good care of your appearance and personal hygiene. Be amenable.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Something you had feared might happen will but it will not be nearly as bad as you had feared. And something good will also happen to you as compensation. Try to avoid catching cold and do not eat stale food. Be less resentful.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You should not allow yourself to become obsessed by a hobby. Your lucky numbers are 3 and 47. You will be able to show your children a good example. Take just a little more exercise, nothing too strenuous. Be objective.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Do not allow yourself to become despondent. Make sure you understand what others are saying and ask if you do not. A little time spent tidying up will save much time later on. Be more candid.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You are liable to take a little too much for granted. You should avoid taking too much notice of gossip and hearsay. And do not invent things that are simply not true. Be a little more cautious.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

Do avoid dwelling too much on the past, live more in the present and the future. A craving for sweet things should be kept well in check. Refrain from jumping to conclusions. Be more willing to learn.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You will tend to feel rather resentful and should try to rid yourself of the feeling. There is a lot you would like to do, but get on with it without thinking about what still remains to be done. Try to use just a little more willpower. Be sincere.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will be able to do something you have long wanted to do, but it will prove to be rather disappointing. No harm in a little daydreaming but do not mistake dream for reality.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

Everything will take just that little longer, but do not try to hurry or you are likely to make mistakes. However, do cut down on the time you spend windowshopping and browsing. Look after your appearance. Be respectful.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You will feel a little disinclined to do things, but you will be able to snap out of the feeling. Make sure you do not eat too many sweets or fatty foods. And take just a little more regular and gentle exercise, like walking. Be moderate.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

A little time spent tidying up is far from wasted. Do not expect others to put you before themselves. Make a note of something you do not want to forget. Be tolerant.

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Spain unhappy with organisers' decision England seeded for Cup finals

ROME, Dec 8, (Reuters): England got their wish to play on the 'safe' island of Sardinia when they were seeded yesterday — at the expense of Spain — for next year's World Cup soccer finals in Italy.

World Cup organising committee chairman Hermann Neuberger told a news conference that Argentina as holders, Italy as hosts and West Ger-

many, Brazil, Belgium and England would be the seeds to head the six groups at the finals.

"This was done on sporting criteria and not for reasons of security," he said.

He said Italy would head Group A, based in Rome, Argentina Group B in Naples and Brazil Group C in Turin.

West Germany are the seeds in Group D in Milan, Belgium of

Group E in Verona and England of Group F in Cagliari.

The other 18 teams who qualified for the finals will be selected to join the seeds in the six groups of four nations at tomorrow's draw in Rome for the finals which run from June 8 to July 8.

The English Football Association (FA) and British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan had

pressed strongly for England to be seeded in Group F, a decision which means they play all their three first round matches in the Sardinian capital of Cagliari.

They, and local organisers, said it would be easier to contain potential hooliganism from English fans on the Mediterranean island.

English FA chairman Bert Millichip was clearly pleased with the decision. "Sardinia is a delightful island," he said. "I hope it remains delightful while we're there."

But Spain, who had also wanted a seeding place, were less enchanted.

National trainer Luis Suarez said Spain accepted the decision but he criticised the organising committee's decision to base the seedings on results at the last two World Cup finals.

"It's certain that the criteria for seeding was decided to suit the problem of England," he said.

"If France had qualified, do you think they would have used the same method? I'm convinced they wouldn't have."

France, who were third at the 1986 finals in Mexico, failed to qualify this time and thus allowed England to snatch the sixth and final seeding place.

The organising committee went on twice as long as the scheduled two-hour session as delegates argued about where the seeded teams should play.

The problem was posed by soccer-mad Turin who wanted a big-name team and not Belgium

as originally proposed.

Brazil were switched from Milan to accommodate them but Milan also wanted a big name and asked for West Germany, who had already decided they wanted to play in Verona.

Neuberger said that as president of the West German Federation, he agreed to make a "big, little sacrifice," to help break the deadlock.

West Germany had wanted to set their headquarters in the German-speaking Alto Adige (south Tirol) area north of Verona.

In tomorrow's draw, one team from each of three separate pots of six nations will be selected to join the seed in groups A to F.

The first pot will be made up of the non-European and non-South Americans, the third comprises the strongest six European countries based on the committee's World Cup criteria, and the second will bring together the rest — two from South America and four from Europe.

They are as follows:
Pot 1: Cameroon, Egypt, South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Costa Rica, United States.

Pot 2: Colombia, Uruguay, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Romania, Sweden.

Pot 3: Spain, Soviet Union, Scotland, Austria, Yugoslavia, Netherlands.

Neuberger said the Netherlands were "promoted" to pot 3 as European champions even though they had not played in the last two finals.



Neuberger (right) with FIFA president Joao Havelange at the news conference. (Reuters wirephoto).

Offenders granted amnesty

ROME, Dec 8, (Reuters): World Cup organisers yesterday granted an amnesty for next year's finals in Italy to soccer players who received yellow cards for fouls and other offences during qualifying matches.

Hermann Neuberger, chairman of the International Football Federation (FIFA) World Cup organising committee, said players who had been shown the yellow card once by the referee during qualifying games would not have to carry it over to the finals.

"It will be cancelled out," he told a news conference.

Players with two yellow cards would be able to sit out the resultant one-match suspension during an international friendly before the 24-nation tournament, Neuberger added.

Suspensions are generally served only during official competition.

The amnesty amounts to wiping the slate clean for yellow card offenders playing in the World Cup under the same formula applied to the last finals in Mexico in 1986.

But Neuberger said the amnesty would not cover players who had been shown the red card and sent off for serious offences during qualifying games.

They will have to sit out remaining match suspensions when the month-long finals take place from June 8.

FIFA officials could not immediately say how many players would benefit from the yellow card amnesty but said that at least three would be suspended for one World Cup match after receiving red cards.

They were named as Romario of Brazil, Stanislav Griga of Czechoslovakia and Gheorghe Hagi of Romania.

Two other players, Mehmed Bazdarevic of Yugoslavia — who has a one-year ban — and Abdul Razzaq Ibrahim Albaloshi of the United Arab Emirates, could also be suspended for red card offences if appeals were unsuccessful, the FIFA officials added.

Japan vies to host 2002 World Cup

TOKYO, Dec 8, (Reuters): Japan has offered to host the World Cup soccer finals in 2002, a spokesman for the Football Association of Japan (FAJ) said yesterday.

He said the FAJ had informed the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) of the intention.

The FAJ recently sent a delegation to Europe to study stadiums and talk with FIFA officials.

"We're deeply serious about hosting the games," the spokesman said.

"We'll have to build more stadiums by 1996 to be able to hold the Cup in Tokyo because FIFA will decide which nation will host the 2002 games that year."

Draw turns into star attraction

Italy invites 6,000 guests

ROME, Dec 8, (Reuters): Tomorrow evening will be show time for just about everyone who is anyone in Italy when this soccer-mad country starts the count down towards the World Cup finals with the official draw.

About 6,000 guests have been invited to the draw in Rome's Palaeur Indoor Sports Arena and a show business spectacle of the best from Italian opera, film and World Cup-inspired pop music.

"It has become something of a status symbol to have an invitation," said Luca di Montezemolo, head of the local organising committee Italia 90.

Chief among the guests will be Giulio Andreotti — supporter of First Division club Roma and prime minister of a nation of soccer fans dreading of a record fourth world title.

Even Pope John Paul II, although absent from the draw has become involved in the festivities to launch Italy towards the kick-off of the 24-country tournament on June 8.

The Polish-born pontiff will meet top officials of the International Football Federation (FIFA) tomorrow morning at a special audience at the Vatican.

The draw will be televised

live to more than 80 countries after a 40-minute spectacular featuring Sophia Loren, Italy's best known film star, and opera singer Luciano Pavarotti.

Pavarotti, one of the world's top tenors and a passionate Juventus fan, will sing the Neapolitan song "O Sole Mio" and the aria "Nessun Dorma" backed by a choir of 2,000 children.

"Nessun Dorma," a cry to battle from Giacomo Puccini's opera Turandot, has become the informal anthem of virtually all major sports event in Italy.

But Italy has also commis-

sioned an official anthem for the World Cup finals, the first time soccer's top tournament has had its own song, and will unveil it tomorrow.

The anthem, "To Be Number One," was composed by Italian Giorgio Moroder, winner of three Oscar awards for Hollywood film scores and composer of the official anthems for the 1984 and 1988 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and Seoul.

Brief clips of films made by leading Italian directors, including Bernardo Bertolucci and Franco Zeffirelli, will also be shown featuring the 12 cities where matches

will be played.

"We wanted to make the draw a bit special, less bureaucratic," said Montezemolo of the thinking behind the show.

The draw will be made by stars from six countries that have won the World Cup, led by Pele of three-time champions Brazil.

The others are the then-captains of 1966 winners England and 1978 winners Argentina, Bobby Moore and Daniel Passarella, Karl-Heinz Rumenigge of West Germany, Bruno Conti of Italy, and a player from Uruguay, probably Ruben Sosa.



Pele



Rumenigge



Passarella

Villa face big test against Liverpool



David Platt



Graham Taylor

LONDON, Dec 7, (Reuters): Resurgent Aston Villa face a major test of their transformation into English soccer First Division title contenders when they play leaders Liverpool at Anfield tomorrow.

Under the director of manager Graham Taylor, Villa have won eight of their last nine League matches and surged to third in the table, level on 30 points with Liverpool and second-placed Arsenal, the defending champions.

Villa's recent record represents a stunning turnaround by a team who struggled to avoid relegation last season — they ended 17th in the 20-team division — and had a wretched start to the 1989-90 campaign, winning only once in their first seven League games.

However, the emergence of David Platt as a striker of England potential and the outstanding form of midfielder Gordon Cowans, the only survivor of Villa's 1980-81 First Division title-winning side, have helped significantly to restore their fortunes.

The visit to Anfield provides Platt with an ideal stage on which to press his claims for a second England appearance, in the World Cup warm-up match against Yugoslavia at Wembley next Wednesday.

Yet while Platt would acknowledge the benefit of an impressive performance against the team accepted in the First Division as the one to beat, he and his team mates will not need reminding of the size of their task.

Liverpool may have come through their recent patch of indifferent form by smoothly trouncing bottom club Manchester City 4-1 away last Saturday.

That kept Liverpool top on goal difference as the battle for the championship remained wide open — the leading eight clubs are separated by only six points.

Indeed, Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, whose side are nine points off the pace, is still convinced his team have a sound chance of winning the titles.

"The First Division is so tight that any number of teams have a chance of winning the championship at the moment and that includes us. I'm sure we shall be there at the death," Ferguson said.

The United manager bases his faith in his side on their improving consistency, a factor they will be anxious to underline at home to Crystal Palace, 18th.

The clash provides Palace manager Steve Coppell with a nostalgic return to the arena where he built his playing reputation during 320 appearances on United's right wing between 1974 and 1982.

Coppell, who won 42 England caps before a crippling knee injury brought a premature end to his career five years ago, is trying to lift his side from a rut. They have not won in the League since mid-October.

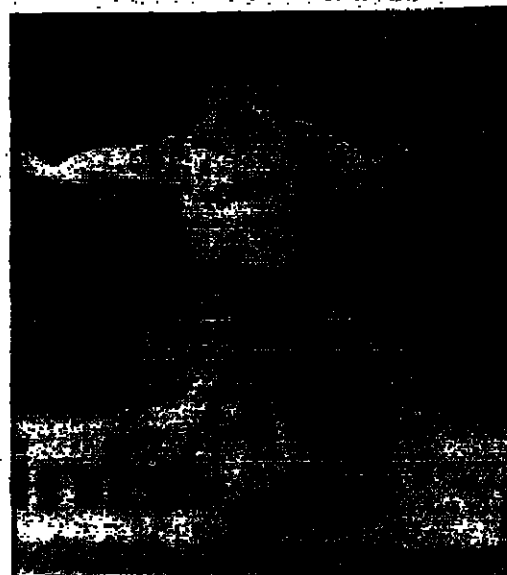
One of Coppell's former England and Manchester United colleagues will also be taking a step into the past.

Midfielder Ray Wilkins, signed by Queen's Park Rangers last week, makes his home debut against his first club, Chelsea, for whom he scored 30 times in 176 games between 1973 and 1978.

Fourth-placed Chelsea are three points behind the leaders, while Rangers, 14th, continue their attempt to overcome poor early-season form.



Gordon Cowans



Werder's Frank Neuberger (left) and Napoli's Ferrara fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto).



Napoli's Maradona (front) is tackled by Werder players during their match. (Reuters wirephoto).

Werder rout Napoli

LONDON, Dec 8, (Reuters): Werder Bremen surged into the UEFA Cup quarterfinals on Wednesday, killing off Diego Maradona's holders Napoli with a five-goal blitz for an 8-3 aggregate triumph.

Cologne added to the third round jubilation in West Germany when Frank Ordenewitz struck in the 90th minute to give them a 3-2 win over Red Star Belgrade.

Cologne had started the second leg 2-0 down and trailed until the last seven minutes.

Karl-Heinz Riedle was Werder's two-goal hero in a 5-1 return leg victory.

A half-fit Maradona tried to keep injury-plagued Napoli afloat — their unconvincing European performance contrasting sharply with their pacesetter League form.

Riedle's first goal in the 25th minute made the task even harder for Napoli, who had given themselves only a slim chance of surviving after crashing 3-2 at home in the first leg.

New Zealander Wynton Rufer, who struck the winner in Naples two weeks ago, Riedle, Gunmar Sauer and Dieter Elts scored in the second half.

Brazilian striker Careca grabbed a consolation goal.

Werder's Bundesliga rivals Stuttgart, losing finalists last season, made a shock exit on Tuesday at the hands of Belgium's Antwerp.

Belgium's other representatives, FC Liege, also reached the March quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Rapid Vienna for a 3-3 aggregate victory, but only after a scare six minutes from time when the Austrians were awarded a penalty.

Goalkeeper Jacky Murnon dived full stretch to his right to stop Norwegian Jan Age Fjortoft's shot and prevented Rapid from scraping through on the away goals rule.

Italy still have two teams in the running, 1977 UEFA Cup winners Juventus and Fiorentina, aiming for their second European title after winning the



Maradona gives an interview after his team's defeat. (Reuters wirephoto).



Auxerre's Waldemar Matysik (right) challenges Olympiakos' Theodoros Papatouridas. (Reuters wirephoto).

inaugural Cup Winner's Cup final in 1961.

Juventus eliminated Karl-Marx-Stadt, a 1-0 win in East Germany giving them a 3-1 aggregate victory. Fiorentina scraped past Dynamo Kiev with a scoreless draw in the Soviet Union after winning the home

leg 1-0. Auxerre of France reached the quarterfinals of a European competition for the first time. They were held 0-0 in icy weather at home by Olympiakos Piraeus but went through on the away goal that Hungarian Kalman Kovacs scored in the 1-1 first leg.

Koeman likely to miss warm-up game

AMSTERDAM, Dec 8, (Reuters): Dutch captain Ronald Koeman will probably miss the Netherlands' World Cup warm-up against Brazil on December 20 because Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff has insisted that he takes some time off soccer.

"As far as we know Cruyff wants all Barcelona players to take a break from December 18-26 which would rule Koeman out of the Brazil game," Dutch Football Association (KNVB) spokesman Rob de Leeuw said yesterday.

"Koeman has played 25 games in the past three months it's in the interests of Koeman, Barcelona and the Dutch that he has a rest," Dutch newspapers reported Cruyff as saying in Milan, where he was preparing his team for Thursday night's European Super Cup second leg match against AC Milan.

The Netherlands and Brazil, European and South American champions respectively, are among the favourites to win the World Cup in Italy next year.

John Bosman, Erwin Koeman, Graeme Rutjes and Wim Hofkens of Belgian side Mechelen will miss the KNVB centenary match, because they are needed for a Belgian Cup tie on the same day.

Dutch coach Thjis Livorset, in Milan to check on the availability of AC Milan duo Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, was hoping to persuade Cruyff to change his mind.

Van Basten and Rijkaard should be free to join the Dutch squad after playing for Milan in the world club championship match against Nacional of Colombia on December 17.

Netherlands to phase in all-seater stadiums

AMSTERDAM, Dec 8, (Reuters): Professional soccer in the Netherlands will be played almost entirely in all-seater stadiums within the next 10 years following an agreement between the clubs and the Dutch Football Association (KNVB).

As part of the Netherlands' bid to rid itself of a growing hooligan problem, the clubs agreed on Wednesday to scale down the amount of standing room at their grounds and are hoping for government assistance to help finance new seating.

"We're going to do away with standing places, with a 10 per cent cut in the number each year over the next decade," said KNVB spokesman Rob de Leeuw on Thursday.

There is only one all-seater

stadium in the Netherlands — at Utrecht — and many grounds have extensive standing areas. Champions PSV Eindhoven's ultra-modern stadium, for example, has standing room for 12,000 supporters out of a capacity of 28,000.

Dutch soccer has been increasingly dogged by hooliganism over the past few years, with Ajax Amsterdam banned from European competition for a season after fans hurled iron stakes on to the pitch and forced the abandonment of a UEFA Cup tie in September.

The following month 14 fans were injured when Feyenoord Rotterdam supporters threw fragmentation bombs at rival Ajax fans at a game in Amsterdam.

Maradona to play in friendly

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Dec 8, (AP): Forward Diego Maradona, slightly off form but always formidable, will lead Argentina's soccer team against Italy's national squad in a World Cup tuneup later this month, coach Carlos Bilardo said Wednesday.

"Maradona, despite all his physical problems, will be there

against Italy," said Bilardo, who also named 12 other players, all from First Division teams in European Leagues.

They include: goalie Nery Pumpido, defenseman Oscar Ruggeri and backup goalie Luis Islas, all playing for teams in Spain, and midfielder Jorge Burruchaga, who plays in France.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Under-20 event

ROME, Dec 8, (Reuters): Nigeria today lost their right to stage the 1991 World Under-20 Championship when the International Football Federation (Fifa) punished them for using over-age players. Portugal, who were to stage the 1993 world juniors championship for players aged under-20, would host the 1991 event, he said.

Bridge

RESULTS of bridge game held on Tuesday at Regency Hotel:

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 3. Plovesky & Lowiczky
- E/W
1. Mrs Sapre & Dr Oskay
 2. Simona & Mukherjee
 3. Lalita & Reddy

Agassi triumphs

DALLAS, Dec 8, (AP): Andre Agassi proved yesterday that he had something left after the tennis year was over. Unfortunately, Agassi's bright showing came in an exhibition. The 19-year-old Las Vegas resident defeated Davis Cup team-mate John McEnroe, 6-4, 6-1, before a crowd of 5,641 at Moody Coliseum in Dallas. Last week, Agassi lost all three of his matches in the Nabisco Masters in New York, while McEnroe reached the semifinals.

Champions' Cup

LONDON, Dec 8, (Reuters): Champions Jugoslavians Split, fighting to keep their top players from foreign clubs, opened their Champions' Cup quarter-final group yesterday with an 86-73 victory over injury-hit Barcelona.

Racing team

ZURICH, Dec 8, (Reuters): The British-based Brabham motor racing team is up for sale because its parent company run by Joachim Luetthi is bankrupt, his lawyer said.

Masters doubles

LONDON, Dec 8, (Reuters): Results in the Masters doubles tennis tournament today. Rick Leach/Jim Pugh (US) beat Jim Courier/Pete Sampras (US) 6-3 6-0 6-3. Jim Grabb/Patrick McEnroe (US) beat Darren Cahill/Mark Kratzmann (Australia) 7-6 (7-5) 6-1 6-4.

Yugoslav player

COLOGNE, West Germany, Dec 8, (Reuters): Yugoslav midfielder Dragan Stokovic signed for French soccer champions Olympique Marseille on Wednesday for about \$8 million dollars, the West German sports agency SID said.

Title fight

LONDON, Dec 8, (Reuters): British cruiserweight champion Johnny Nelson will challenge Carlos de Leon of Puerto Rico for the World Boxing Council title in the house of St. James, England, on January 27.

NBA games

NEW YORK, Dec 8, (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played today.

Portland	96	Charlotte	96
Utah	107	Dallas	97
LA Clippers	105	Cleveland	88
LA Lakers	100	Phoenix	96

Outland Trophy

NEW YORK, Dec 8, (AP): Mohammed Elewonibi of Brigham Young University, was named winner Wednesday of the Outland Trophy as the outstanding college football lineman in America.

Overseas bout

MILAN, Italy, Dec 8, (AP): A self-confident Daniel Eduardo Netto said Wednesday that he accepted to fight his first overseas bout against unbeaten WBO heavyweight champion Francesco Damiani "because I am certain I can defeat him and take the title." The fight is on Dec 16.

Hawaii surfer

HONOLULU, Dec 8, (AP): Hans Hedemann of Hawaii won his second World Cup of surfing title, edging Australians Gary Elkerton and Michael Barry and Richard Schmidt of California in 8 to 10-foot (2.5 - to 3-metre) surf at Sunset Beach on Oahu's north shore.

Tour offer

LONDON, Dec 8, (Reuters): The Soviet Union began their first rugby union tour of England on Wednesday by issuing a surprise invitation to their hosts to make a reciprocal visit next year.

Cup stadiums

ROME, Dec 8, (Reuters): The International Football Federation (Fifa) on Wednesday completed a two-day tour of inspection of the 12 stadiums selected to stage next year's World Cup finals in Italy.

Malmo midfielder

MALMO, Sweden, Dec 8, (UPI): Swedish club Malmo has agreed to sell international soccer midfielder Stefan Schwarz to West German side Bayern Munich. Bayern Munich's manager Uli Hoesch and coach Jupp Heynckes signed up the promising 21-year-old on a two and a half year contract.

Harris dies

MIDDLEBROUGH, England, Dec 8, (UPI): Former Welsh international soccer player Bill Harris has died, aged 61. Born in Swansea, Harris won six full caps after joining English League side Middlesbrough from Hull in 1954.

Chile barred from 1994 World Cup

ROME, Dec 8, (Reuters): Chile were barred from the 1994 World Cup and the team captain and two officials were banned from the game for life today after a tumultuous World Cup soccer life today.

The International Football Federation (Fifa) executive committee imposed life bans on the

former president of the Chilean association, the team doctor and captain Roberto Rojas. The Chilean team walked off the field in the second half of their World Cup qualifier against Brazil in Rio de Janeiro on September 3 after a flare was thrown on to the pitch.

Goalkeeper Rojas originally claimed he had

been hit by the flare but later admitted this had not been the case.

Chile were trailing 1-0 and Fifa awarded the unfinished match to Brazil a week later, ensuring the qualification of the former world champions. Pablo Porta, Spanish president of the Fifa legal committee, told a news conference on the eve

of the draw for the 1990 World Cup finals the incident was "an aggression against world football."

Rojas, who was initially banned from international football for life and from all football activity for three months was outlawed from the game for life.

Moody douses Lankan hopes

Aussies rally after losing two early wickets

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 8, (Reuters): Australia's Tom Moody scored his maiden Test century, putting on an unbeaten 151 with captain Allan Border to douse Sri Lanka's early hopes on a rain-affected opening day of the first cricket Test today.

At the close Australia were 178 for two wickets. Moody was 101 not out, reaching three figures second before a cloudburst brought play to a halt 80 minutes early.

Border hit 54 not out to reach his 45th half-century in Test cricket, equalling the record of former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar. Sri Lanka, who lost their previous two Tests against Australia by an innings, earned immediate reward for putting the home side in to bat on a green pitch, removing David Boon for a not-out in the second over of the day.

Boon, who hit a double century against New Zealand last month, misread a ball from Graeme Labrooy and flicked a bat-pad catch to Athula

Samarasekera at forward short leg.

Fellow opener Mark Taylor, the scourge of England during the recent Ashes tour, never looked happy and had made only nine when he edged the last ball of Campaka Ramanayake's first over.

Wicketkeeper Gauri Wickremasinghe, like Samarasekera making his Test debut, took a simple catch to reduce Australia to 27 for two.

However, Taylor was at the crease long enough to break an 18-year-old record held by Gavaskar for the most runs scored by a Test player in his debut year, hitting 918 since playing in the fourth Test against West Indies in January.

These early successes were to be the touring side's last as Moody had showed a liking for the medium-pace Sri Lankan attack from the start. Ignoring the frequent breaks for showers, the tall Western Australian cut and drove powerfully to reach three figures off 161 balls in only his second test innings.

Moody, who hit 61 in the drawn first Test against New Zealand last month, gained his place because of an injury to opener Geoff Marsh, Australia's vice-captain.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings
D. Boon & Samarasekera b Labrooy 0
M. Taylor & Wickremasinghe b Ramanayake 9
T. Moody not out 101
A. Border not out 54
Extras (lb-2 nb-12) 14
Total (for two wickets) 178
Fall of wickets: 1-12-27
To bat: Dean Jones, Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Carl Rackemann, Merv Hughes, Terry Alderman, Geoff Lawson.

Bowling to date: Ramanayake 8.5-1-17-0 (2nb), Labrooy 15.1-3-76-1 (6nb), Ramanayake 12-1-46-1 (4nb), Ranatunga 8.2-1-30-0, Asoka de Silva 3-1-7-0.

Sri Lanka — Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinha, Aravinda de Silva, Athula Samarasekera, Dhamika Ranatunga, Gauri Wickremasinghe, Ravi Ratnayake, Graeme Labrooy, Asoka de Silva, Champaka Ramanayake.



Border: equalled Gavaskar's record

Korbut hopes Nadia returns to gymnastics

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec 8, (UPI): Olga Korbut, the former Olympic champion from the Soviet Union, said Thursday she understands Nadia Comaneci's decision to leave gymnastics but hopes the Romanian defector returns to the sport.

"I hope her decision is a fleeting one," Korbut said. "I went through this (the desire to leave gymnastics) myself. It is common to many athletes to want to leave that life behind. But I realized at some point that gymnastics was part of me, that we belong together."

Korbut, 34, recently completed a seven-week goodwill tour in the United States. She was in Indianapolis to raise money to bring Soviet children to the United States for treatment of cancer they contracted as a result of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Korbut first won the hearts of

fans around the world when she won gold and silver medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics and the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Comaneci, 28, earned similar status during the 1976 games by becoming the first Olympic gymnast to receive a perfect score of 10.

In that respect, the two women have much in common. In other respects, they do not.

Korbut is married and has a child. Her husband, Soviet pop music star Leonid Bortkevich, and 11-year-old son, Richard, are touring with her with the support of the Soviet government.

Comaneci gained asylum in the United States after defecting last week from Romania. She has said she plans to abandon gymnastics and build a new life in Florida with Constantin Panait, 38, a Romanian exile who helped her defect.



Nadia with companion Constantin Panait

US name Davis Cup team

NEW YORK, Dec 8, (Reuters): Michael Chang, Aaron Krickstein and the doubles team of Rick Leach and Jim Pugh have been named as the US squad that will face Mexico in a first round Davis Cup tie next year, the United States Tennis Association announced on Wednesday.

French Open champion Chang, 17, made a successful Davis Cup debut this year, win-

ning both of his opening round singles matches against Paraguay.

Krickstein, 22, returns to Davis Cup for the first time since 1987 on the hardcourts at Carlsbad, California.

Leach and Pugh, currently defending their Masters doubles title in London, will make their Davis Cup debut against Mexico next February.

Wilander faces tough battle

STUTTGART, West Germany, Dec 8, (AP): A year ago Mats Wilander was on top of the tennis world, having won three of the men's grand slam events to complete a Swedish sweep of the big four with Stefan Edberg.

Now, the former top-ranked player is not even sure he'll split singles duties with Edberg in the Dec 15-17 Davis Cup final against defending champion West Germany.

Wilander, who was named by captain John Anders "Jonte" Sjogren with four others to the Swedish team, has never been left on the bench in Davis Cup play.

"Naturally, I'd be disappointed if I won't be playing in Stuttgart," said Wilander, who tied with Ivan Lendl for most Grand Slam titles (seven) this decade.

"But all guys on the team are playing well," added

Wilander, who is coming off his worst season ever. "I expect a hard fight in training camp. If I'm struggling and feel that I can't play well I'm going to tell Jonte right way."

This year's final is expected to be tougher than last year's championship, when Boris Becker and the other West Germans shocked Sweden 4-1 on indoor clay at Goteborg, Sweden, to win the prestigious team tennis title for the first time.

"We'll be playing away from home before a partisan crowd and that's always difficult," said Sjogren. "But I don't feel like we're an underdog even though most people think we are." Sweden's victory over Becker was positive. Our team morale is much higher now.

Pakistani pacemen fit for Sialkot Test

SIALKOT, Pakistan, Dec 8, (Reuters): Imran Khan's Pakistanis have been boosted by the prospect of three of their pacemen being fit for the fourth and final cricket Test against India starting tomorrow.

New pace bowling discovery Waqar Younus, left-armers Wasim Akram and Aaqib Javed were in doubt, but the trio had fitness tests at practice in Lahore yesterday when a team doctor said that, hopefully, they would be fit to play.

The news of Younus' possible return represents a real lift for the home country. He took four for 80 on his Test debut in the opening game of the series but was ruled out of the next match with a back strain and was subsequently believed to be out of the remaining Tests with a spinal injury.

Imran will be keen to have a full strength pace attack to call on when his side meet their arch-rivals under conditions expected to favour the seamers.

The Jinnah Park ground, venue of only one previous Test, looks set to live up to its reputation for helping pace bowlers with a grassy pitch that offers the prospect of a definite result after the first three Tests were drawn.

Indian captain Krishnamachari Srikkanth said after inspecting the pitch: "It is going to be a fight match and not like the (third) Lahore Test which ended in high-scoring draw."

Srikkanth said the pitch seemed to have lot of moisture and he considered the ball would seam and swing on all five days of the game.

"The pitch at the moment has lot of grass but I don't know whether it would retain its shape by tomorrow," he added.

In the only other Test played in Sialkot, in October 1985, Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by eight wickets within four days and pace bowlers captured 31 of the 32 wickets.

Similar conditions on this occasion may provide a contrast to the pattern of the previous three Tests in the current series in which seven of the nine innings have produced totals on more than 300.

Teams:

Pakistan (from) - Aamer Malik, Rameez Raja, Shoaib Mohammad, Salim Malik, Javed Miandad, Imran Khan (captain), Ejaz Ahmed, Nadeem Abbasi, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younus, Aaqib Javed, Abdul Qadir, Mushtaq Ahmad, Shahid Mahboob, Akram Raza.

India (from) - Krishnamachari Srikkanth (captain), Navjot Sidhu, Sanjay Manjrekar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar, Ravi Shastri, Kapil Dev, Manoj Prabhakar, Kiran More, Maninder Singh, Salil Ankola, Wakeri Raman, Vivek Razdan, Arshad Ayub, Ajay Sharma, Raman Lamba.



555

Stands out for taste

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EXPIRED 150

SPORTS

All judges score fight for champion

Leonard beats Duran to retain title



Leonard (left) connects with Duran's jaw. (Reuters wirephoto)



Duran punches the bag during a workout for the fight. (Reuters wirephoto)

LAS VEGAS, Dec 8, (Reuters): Sugar Ray Leonard danced and Roberto Duran watched for most of the night as Leonard retained his World Boxing Council super middleweight title with a unanimous points decision yesterday.

The rubber match between the two fighters, anticipated for nine years, was loudly booed by many in the crowd of 16,000 in the outdoor stadium at the new Mirage Hotel.

Duran pursued Leonard throughout the 12-round bout but never pressured the American, allowing him to hit and run all night.

Duran was seeking to avenge the shame of the infamous "No mas" fight in 1980 when he quit in the eighth round against Leonard.

Duran did not quit this time, but he did not fight either.

The only visible damage inflicted by the Panamanian was a cut alongside Leonard's right eye which appeared to have been caused by a right hand from Duran in the 11th round. Blood oozed out almost immediately and continued again in the final round.

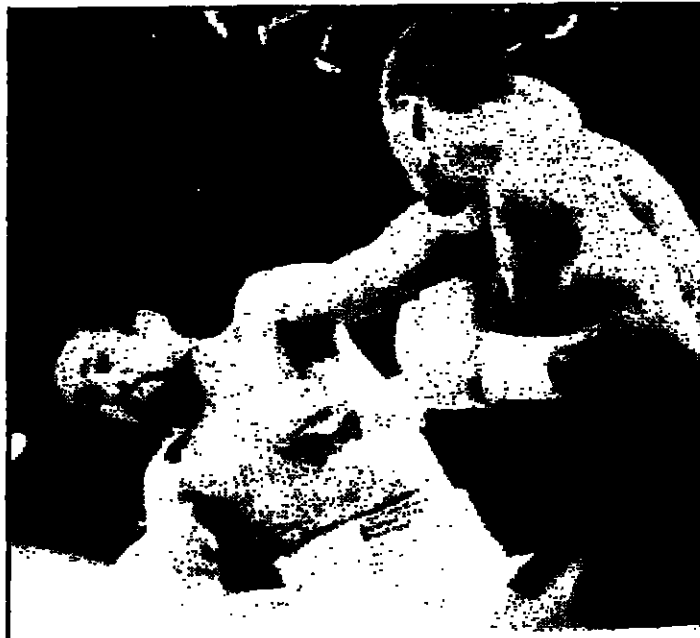
But Duran, 38, inexplicably, did not pursue Leonard even though he had to know he was far behind on points.

Leonard, 33, said the cut was caused by a head butt.

"My legs were in great shape. I did not let the crowd sway me," said Leonard, apparently referring to the chants of the crowd for Duran in the second and fifth rounds.

Leonard began his signature mugging in the second round, a tactic generally seen as having been a key factor in frustrating Duran in the 1980 fight that he quit.

Leonard even tried a one-half bolo punch — half of a dramatic windmill motion with his right arm — in the second round.



Sugar Ray Leonard (right) lands a hard right to Duran's chin (Reuters wirephoto)

The crowd chanted "Duran, Duran" and Leonard smirked at the Panamanian at the end of the round, but Duran was not rattled by the tactics.

Leonard landed a solid left-right combination in the third round, following with a left jab in the nose to win the round handily. At the end of the round Duran started to go to the wrong corner.

Between rounds Leonard sat in his corner with a blanket wrapped around him up to his neck, looking like an old man sitting on a porch.

Although Leonard was never in trouble and won the fifth round easily, he began bleeding slightly from the inside of his lip, but the cut did not appear to cause him any problems.

Perhaps responding to the lusty boos of the crowd, Leonard

The punch statistics reveal much about the fight.

Duran threw an average of 49 punches a round, but landed only seven. Leonard threw 37 punches a round on average, landing 19.

American judge Jerry Roth scored the fight 119-109, compatriot Joe Cortez had it 116-111 and Bob Logist of Belgium scored it 120-110.

Leonard's record improved to 36-1-1, his only defeat coming at the hands of Duran in 1980. The draw came against Thomas Hearns last June. Duran's record fell to 85-8.

Leonard weighed 160 pounds (72.5 kg) and Duran 158 (71.6 kg).

● Duran will turn over \$1.8 million from his purse to repay an erroneous tax refund, the US Justice Department said.

The legal battle began last May when Justice Department tax lawyers sought to have Duran arrested until he made arrangements to repay the \$1.5 million in refunds he erroneously received in the mail and had spent in a few months.



Leonard proves he is the best (Reuters wirephoto)



A man in Duran's corner points the way toward a smiling Leonard (right). (Reuters wirephoto)



Senior hits 72 to stay in top spot

MELBOURNE, Dec 8, (Reuters): Overnight leader Peter Senior lost ground but still maintained a one stroke lead after the second round of Australia's richest golf tournament, the \$750,000 Australian Classic.

Senior shot an even-par 72 for a 137 total to lead fellow Australian Mike Clayton who had a second successive 69. Another shot further back are Britain's Chris Moody and New Zealander Frank Nobilo. Moody carded 71 and Nobilo 70 today.

Senior continued his great form, collected two birdies for the first four holes, to add to his eight yesterday.

But he double-bogeyed the par-three fifth hole and was happy to scramble home with just one further birdie.

The last double bogey he suffered was on the very first hole of the Australian PGA tournament last month which he went on to win. He also won last weekend's Australian Open.

"I didn't play any different really to how I played yesterday but when I did make a mistake it was costly," he said. "You've got to have a day like that now and then and it's nice to get it out of the road now."

Moody was six under after nine holes with birdies on the fourth and sixth holes but his game declined on the back nine.

World number one Greg Norman is seven shots off the lead after a 71 but he declared later he was still in contention after correcting his putting style.

Mercer, Maynard triumph

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, Dec 8, (UPI): Olympic gold medalists Ray Mercer and Andrew Maynard remained unbeaten last night, scoring victories on the undercard of the Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran bout.

Mercer, a 20-1 favourite, was lacklustre in recording an eight-round split decision over overweight heavyweight Ossie Ocasio in chilly temperatures at the Mirage's outdoor arena.

Maynard, a 24-1 choice, failed to put Mike Devito down, but won a unanimous decision in an eight-round

light heavyweight bout.

Mercer, 12-0 with 9 knockouts, had been criticised Nov 14 after failing to knock out heavyweight Jerry Jones. He did not land a punishing blow on Ocasio all night and was booed at the bout's conclusion.

One judge had Ocasio, a flabby 227 pounds (103 kg), ahead 77-75, but two others had Mercer in front 78-74.

"That Ossie Ocasio was difficult, particularly in the holding department," Mercer said.

Ocasio, 23-7-1, a former World Boxing Association cruiserweight

champion. He went 11 rounds with Evander Holyfield in 1987.

Maynard, 9-0, did not record a KO for the first time as a professional. He rocked Devito a half-dozen times, but could never put together a finishing flurry.

"I had sweat rolling," Maynard said, "but when I threw the punches I could feel the cold air go inside my bones."

Devito, the Ohio state light heavyweight champion, was cut above the left eye by a Maynard straight midway through the final round. Devito slipped 10-4-2.

Two judges had Maynard ahead by 6 points. The other scored it 80-71.

Also, heavyweight Tommy Morrison, a 20-1 favourite, felled Canadian Ken Lukatski twice en route to a six-round unanimous decision.

British heavyweight Gary Mason extended his unbeaten record to 33 fights by narrowly outpointing American Mark Wills Wednesday night.

Mason, who has been promoted as a possible future challenger to world champion Mike Tyson, got 98.5 points from referee Adrian Morgan to 97 for Wills.

The British heavyweight champion was cut on both eyes and had blood coming from his mouth at the end of the fight. It was the first time in his five-year career Mason had been forced to go 10 rounds.

Wills, who now has won only 10 times in 21 professional fights, hit Mason hard with a right hook to the chin in the third round but wore down as the fight progressed.



Mason (left) slams a left to Wills' face. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jansher fined \$800

LONDON, Dec 8, (Reuters): World squash champion Jansher Khan has been disciplined by the International Squash Players' Association (ISPA) for not trying.

The Pakistanis have been fined £500 (\$800) and forfeited ranking points after losing 1-5, 1-3, 1-5 to compatriot Jahangir Khan in the final of last month's Stuttgart Open.

The offence occurred in the third game. "He threw the game," said ISPA official Roger Eady after the tournament promoter complained that Jansher had not tried. Jansher declared he was bored with squash after spectators booed his performance.

In October, Jansher was fined and put on a year's probation when ISPA ruled he had snubbed sponsors and host nation Malaysia following his world title triumph. He had failed to attend the prize-giving and closing dinner.

Eady said the ISPA board took into consideration Jansher's exemplary behaviour in the recent US and Canadian Open events and regarded the Stuttgart incident as extremely serious but rather a relapse in a much-improved attitude to his responsibilities as a professional and world champion.

Smith honoured

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, Dec 8, (Reuters): St Louis shortstop Ozzie Smith was awarded his 10th straight gold Glove on Wednesday, becoming the only Major Leaguer to receive the award each year this decade.

"This is the highest accomplishment a defensive player can get," said Smith, who made 17 errors in 1989.

For the first time since 1978, New York Mets first baseman Keith Hernandez did not win the Gold Glove in the National League.

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SAMSUNG Electronics

Evergreen brush aside Casuals

EVERGREEN Cricketers crushed Casuals by eight wickets in a Hubara Thursday League match at the Ahmadi Oval ground on Thursday.

After winning the toss, Simon, Casuals' skipper, elected to bat through Tudball and Ron Seward. Arshed Pindiwal troubled both the batsmen, beating them repeatedly. Finally Arshed got his reward by trapping Ron Seward lbw for nine runs while Ishfaq bowled Tudball (5).

When Evergreen skipper Asad Baig introduced Jamil he had an early success when he removed Simon Clements (4). At the other end Amjad Malik never let the batsmen dominate and accounted for A. Powell (10).

Snowden (duck) and top scorer Kevin Wells (17).

Arshed Pindiwal, in his second spell, claimed the wickets of Kazim Hussain (7) and Akram (4) while Winstone was run-out for five on the last ball of the innings with the total just 84 for nine.

Arshed Pindiwal and Amjad Malik bowled extremely well and each picked three wickets giving away eight and 14 runs respectively. Ishfaq and Jamil were also among the wickets with one each.

Evergreen, needing 3.5 runs per over, opened the innings through Shahbaz and Ishfaq and the brothers put on 47 for first wicket

in just overs when Ron Seward bowled Ishfaq for 16.

Amjad Malik took very little time to settle and hit 18 runs from one over of Arton-Powell, including four boundaries. At the other end, opener Shahbaz continued to shine and scored 42 runs. Amjad Malik was bowled with the scores level to give Casuals and Ron Seward the second success and Jamil had to cross for an easy single to finish the one-sided match in just 12.5 overs with eight wickets in hand.

Evergreen now have maximum 15 points from three matches played and are scheduled to meet Lanka Lions on December 21 in their next round.

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